Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the lowest and 5 the highest, what's your level of optimism for 2009?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

98 DAYS without a government budget for FY 2009

INSIDE

Sad Farewell

President-elect Barack Obama rejoined his family in Washington after bidding a poignant farewell to his Chicago home.

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Indon Quake

A series of powerful earthquakes killed a 10-year-old girl and injured dozens in remote eastern Indonesia.

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Illegal cockfights spring up

Former congressman, police detective seen participating

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

This file picture shows children watching two roosters fight in an impromptu cockfight.

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

The recent holiday season was a lucrative time for illegal cockfighters on Saipan, with many incidents being reported to the Office of the Mayor of Saipan.

Tudela

According to Mayor Juan B. Tudela, his office received several reports of illegal cockfighting activities that, in one instance, even involved a police officer.

On Dec. 25, a former congressman was seen involved in such an activity in the San Vicente area, with more than 50 participants and about 20 cars parked

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Yana and Atalig get out of jail—for now

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo ordered yesterday the temporary release of lawyers Reynaldo O. Yana and Antonio M. Atalig from detention until the next hearing on Jan. 16.

Govendo said he will determine then whether Yana and Atalig should continue their detention at the Department of Corrections or be released.

See YANA on Page 4

Attorney Antonio M. Atalig emerges from the Superior Court after a hearing yesterday regarding attorneys' fees in the Malite probate. Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo ordered the temporary release of attorneys Atalig and Reynaldo O. Yana.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Hawaiian textile luminary Alfred Shaheen, 86, dies

By CLAIRE NOLAND
(C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES—Alfred Shaheen, a textile manufacturer who revolutionized the garment industry in postwar Hawaii by designing, printing and producing aloha shirts and other ready-to-wear items under one roof, has died. He was 86.

Shaheen died Dec. 22 of complications from diabetes in Torrance, a southwestern suburb of Los Angeles, where he had lived for the last five years, his daughter Camille Shaheen-Tunberg said.

After World War II, many servicemen and women returned to the U.S. from Asia and the Pacific islands with aloha

See HAWAIIAN on Page 4

Alfred Shaheen was the most creative and prolific Hawaiian manufacturer in the heyday of post-WWII fashion.

Bishop provides Bible for Kilili swearing in

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Northern Mariana Islands Delegate-elect Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan will use a Bible brought from the Northern Marianas for his ceremonial swearing in at the U.S. Capitol on Tuesday, Jan. 6 (Wednesday, Saipan time).

The Bible was provided by Bishop Tomas A. Camacho of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa. The Bishop had also blessed the Holy Book.

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Local

Bishop provides Bible for Kilili's swearing in

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Northern Mariana Islands Delegate-elect Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan will use a Bible brought from the Northern Marianas for his ceremonial swearing in at the U.S. Capitol on Tuesday, Jan. 6 (Wednesday, Saipan time).

The Bible was provided by Bishop Tomas A. Camacho of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, who also blessed the Holy Book.

Sablan

Camacho

"By taking my oath on this Holy Book I feel that I am bringing to Congress the prayers and hopes of the people of the Northern Marianas for an improved relationship between the Northern Marianas and the rest of the United States," Sablan said.

Sablan is the first Delegate elected to Congress by the people of the Northern Mariana Islands. The position of Delegate was created with the passage of U.S. Public Law 110-229 on May 8, 2008.

The Bible will be used during a swearing in ceremony conducted by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi in the Rayburn Room, just off the main floor of the House of Representatives. The event will be attended by a number of CNMI dignitaries, including Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan. It is part of the all-day process of convening the 111th US Congress.

In addition to the prayers embodied in the Bible, Sablan asked for the "continued prayers of the people of the Northern Marianas. We are embarking on a new level of participation in our national government, one that should open to us more of the benefits of our permanent relationship with the United States."

Sablan's wife Andrea, who is in Washington for the ceremonies with son Jesse and daughter Patricia, will carry the Bible back to the Northern Marianas. "It will be returned to the Diocese Curia for safekeeping," Sablan explained, "and with the hope that this Bible will be used for the same purpose by future citizens elected to serve the people of the Northern Mariana Islands in the U.S. Congress. ***(PR)***

HOLIDAY GREETINGS

A holiday surprise was in store for children arriving at Saipan International Airport on 25 holiday flights on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Saipanda welcomed over 500 children and their families to the Northern Mariana Islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota. Aided by two island girl elves, Saipanda also gave each child a Saipanda backpack as part of the annual welcome extended by the Marianas Visitors Authority to visiting children during the holidays.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pangelinan: Two options for budget

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

Sen. Maria Pangelinan, chairwoman of the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee, is proposing two options to trim the Legislature's proposed $165.4-million budget plan for fiscal year 2009, which Gov. Benigno Fitial vetoed due to a decrease in projected revenue.

Pangelinan plans to discuss the options with Senate President Pete P. Reyes, House Speaker Arnold Palacios, members of the Senate's Fiscal Affairs and House's Ways and Mean committees, and legal counsel.

Pangelinan has prepared two options to reduce the general fund resources estimate to $148 million. Option one is to reduce government personnel costs at a rate of 7.77 percent. There would be no reduction of non-personnel costs.

Option two would reduce all costs at a rate of 5.27 percent.

Under both options, $200,000 would go to the La Fiesta lease appropriation and the Deportation Fund appropriation would be restored to $5. Also, legislative members' salaries and benefits, including the employer contribution, would remain intact.

Pangelinan said cutting payroll is the only alternative, adding that it is ultimately up to the leadership.

"You cannot cut services anymore," she said. "You cannot have people employed and they don't have the logistical support to do their jobs. They don't have pens, pencils, paper."

Pangelinan

Last week Fitial announced that starting Jan. 1 he was enacting a 5.5 percent budget cut against all government agencies to deal with the declining revenues.

Fitial pointed to an $8.7-million drop in the Department of Finance's revenue projection in disapproving the budget plan on Dec. 24. He noted two major sources of the revenue decline: the impending closure of three of the four remaining garment manufacturers on Saipan and Northwest Airlines' plan to stop the Osaka-Saipan route in March 2009.

Due to the nature of the timing of the veto and the holidays, it was difficult for the Legislature to convene, Pangelinan said. The Legislature received the official notice of the revenue decrease on Dec. 30.

According to the Constitution, Pangelinan said, only the governor can increase the revenue, so the Legislature cannot override the veto.

"We would have been increasing the revenue in violation of the Constitution," she said.

The Senator said a budget is imperative for the Commonwealth.

"It gives an order in numbers so we know where the major expenditures are occurring," she said. "If you do not have a budget you can not identify where major expenditures are occurring."

ANNOUNCEMENT

This is to inform the public that All Motor Vehicle Inspection Fees have been increased since January 02, 2009.

FEES SHOWN BELOW:

Sedans/Pick-Up Trucks	$ 10.00
Moped/Scooters/Motorcycle	$ 5.00
Bus & Heavy Equipment Vehicles	$ 40.00
All Government Vehicles	$ 2.00

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Madriaga named NMC's financial, admin officer

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

Rogelio Madriaga has been named the chief financial and administrative officer for Northern Marianas College.

NMC had been without a CFAO since the summer. Two acting CFAOs held the position until Madriaga was named to the position in December.

As the chief financial and administrative officer, Madriaga said he would oversee the finance office, human resources office, operations and maintenance, and the bookstore.

"I am supposed to take care of the budgeting, fiscal controls and human resources allocations," he said.

Madriaga said administrators have been focusing on the college's accreditation and responding to the Western Association of Schools and Colleges' Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges.

Earlier this year, WASC ordered NMC to provide reasons- or "show cause"-why the college's accreditation should not be terminated. The show cause order set a timeline for NMC to submit reports to the accrediting agency. WASC should announce their decision on the college's accreditation this month.

When asked how the process was going, he said it was going extremely well but has been extremely strenuous. Officials have been putting in long hours, including working on holidays and weekends, he added.

Madriaga worked for NMC in the past as director of planning for capital improvement projects. The job evolved into the position of chief financial and administrative officer, he said.

US: Dismiss preliminary injunction vs labor provisions

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

The U.S. government has asked a federal court to dismiss the CNMI's motion for preliminary injunction to suspend labor provisions of the federalization law.

Lawyers for Gov. Benigno Fitial filed the preliminary injunction in November, asking that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. Department of Labor be stopped from taking over the Commonwealth's labor system. The CNMI government reiterated arguments stated in the federalization lawsuit that the labor provisions of the Consolidated Natural Resources Act, which President Bush signed earlier this year, will violate the promises of self-government and economic development detailed in the Covenant. The preliminary injunction was filed two months after the federalization lawsuit.

In addition to the four reasons earlier cited in a motion to dismiss the federalization lawsuit, the lawyers for the U.S. government gave four reasons why the preliminary injunction should be dismissed:

■ The CNMI lacks standing to bring this action because its alleged economic injuries are not concrete and particularized.

■ Even if the CNMI had standing, Sections 503 and 105 of the Covenant permit Congress to apply the immigration laws of the United States to the CNMI.

■ The CNMI cannot clearly show that it will suffer irreparable harm if the motion is denied.

■ The CNMI cannot prevail because the balance of the hardships tilts toward the United States

The CNMI must respond to both the preliminary injunction motion to dismiss and the motion to dismiss the federalization lawsuit by Thursday, Washington D.C. time.

'Uncertain injuries'

According to the motion, to have standing the plaintiff must show "injury in fact" that is concrete and imminent, not hypothetical.

"If there is a pervasive 'uncertainty about whether the alleged injury will be likely to occur,' the plaintiff lacks standing," the federal lawyers said.

The claims made by the CNMI that the law will decrease the gross domestic product by 50 percent or more and approximately $4 million (later changed to $7 million) in revenues from immigration related fees are speculative, the motion states. The GDP figure is based solely on the Government Accountability Office study, which was full of disclaimers and caveats that the report is not an indictor of the economic impact of the CNRA.

The CNMI government's claim of a loss of $4 million (later revised to $7 million by the CNMI) in lost revenue related to immigration fees does not take into account the amount of money that will be offset by the CNMI no longer administering and maintaining its own immigration system, according to the motion.

Also, the CNMI ignores the fact that a supplemental fee of $150 for each transition period immigrant must be collected by DHS, with the money paid to the CNMI Treasury to fund vocational programs.

Moreover, the motion breaks down the declarations submitted by CNMI government officials, businessmen and citizens, detailing why, according to the U.S. government, they are speculative.

"None of these declarations support the CNMI's standing in this matter. The declarations merely expose that the economic injuries claimed by the CNMI are purely speculative," the motion states. "The court should recognize this action for what it is: a disaffection with Congress's decision to apply federal immigration law to the CNMI as a result of the CNMI's failure to adequately address growing immigration problems and concerns."

The motion notes that the CNMI government submitted a report prepared by Richard McPhee, *Economic Impact of Federal Laws on the Commonwealth of the Northern Marians Islands*, to show causality between the adoption of the CRNA and the economic depression.

"However, the federalization analysis is not an examination of the economic impact of the Act, but rather of U.S. federalization" of the CNMI in general, including through minimum wage and other policies unrelated to U.S. immigration laws," the federal lawyers states.

'Covenant is clear'

According to the motion, the Covenant clearly allows Congress to apply U.S. immigration laws. While Section 105 "generally" grants Congress the ability to apply federal laws to the CNMI, Section 503 "specifically" permits Congress the authority to apply the laws.

Moreover, the immigration laws are not "labor laws," according to the motion. U.S. immigrations laws affect labor markets, but that does not make them labor laws, it said.

MEDIA TOUR CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Travel and media representatives of the Osaka-Saipan familiarization tour in the Northern Mariana Islands pose for a commemorative photo at Fiesta Resort & Spa before their departure on Dec. 24. The fam tour group was on Saipan from Dec. 22-24, 2008, to learn more about the islands in order to support the new Osaka-Saipan flight by Asiana Airlines started Dec. 20 and to help develop honeymoon products.

Tudela wants arcades relocated from villages

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

The Office of the Mayor of Saipan is batting for the phasing out of poker arcades from the villages and urging legislators to enact a law that would forcibly "eradicate the machines away from the general population."

Mayor Juan B. Tudela said a centralized system—keeping all poker arcades within a designated area—would minimize so-called poker-related crimes.

Tudela said he is optimistic that all the poker arcades would be relocated in June this year.

He said the numbers of poker arcades have increased so much that you can see them anywhere, which he said is contrary to the initial purpose of limiting it to several outlets.

"From my own personal and official position, I am in full support to relocate all poker machines and other forms of gambling machines from the villages on Saipan to a more remote and safer location and environmentally-safe to our residents and visiting tourists who want to spend some time during the day to play their luck," Tudela said in a statement.

Tudela said these machines have negative effects on the villages since the very beginning.

"We have seen and witnessed so many criminal acts [that] have been committed due to the presence of these machines in the villages," the mayor stressed.

Tudela lamented the rise in crimes, where poker employees and patrons have been held up at gunpoint and instances where the perpetrators remain free in the community.

He said statistics have indicated an increasing number of burglary, theft and armed robbery over the past five years.

Tudela believes that all these could be attributed to the prevalence of poker machines, in addition to drug addiction.

"We cannot continue to have these poker machines and any other gambling machines in such a small community. It has been always my strong position to get these machines away from the community," the mayor said.

Former governor Juan Babauta first initiated a proposal in 2004 to relocate poker arcades from the villages and other residential sites to curb the rising number of crimes, following a double shooting incident at a poker establishment at the base of Capital Hill, which happened the day he delivered his State of the Commonwealth address.

'Repatriating overstayers is Labor's priority'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Department of Labor is focusing on overstaying alien workers in the CNMI and working on their eventual repatriation, according to Labor Deputy Secretary Cinta Kaipat.

"The Labor Department has given a high priority to cleaning up the records with respect to foreign workers who are overstayers," said Kaipat in her interim progress report on the implementation of the controversial Public Law 15-108—the new labor reform law.

Labor's goal, Kaipat said, is to determine the exact number of overstayers, notify these people of their lack of status, and work with the Division of Immigration to get them repatriated.

"The Commonwealth has been burdened over the years with reports that there were as many as 8,000 to 10,000 overstayers. Those reports were vastly exaggerated," she said in the report submitted to the Legislature.

Labor published last Dec. 1 a list containing names of 624 people who were allegedly overstaying for the years 2003 through 2007.

Labor's published list for the first quarter of 2008 showed 25 alleged overstayers.

"We expect to publish the lists for the second and third quarters of 2008 very shortly," Kaipat said.

In the same report, Kaipat stated that nine in 10 of overstaying aliens in the CNMI were hired over the past six years, when the local economy has been on a downturn and joblessness has gone rampant.

Rota mayor's son's request to hire investigator OK'd

The federal court granted yesterday the request of the Rota mayor's son to hire an investigator who will help him study the case.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson granted Wilbur Vic Masga Inos' written motion to hire the investigator who will help him in his robbery case.

Munson said a written order would follow.

The judge also granted Inos' waiver of his right to a speedy trial to allow him further time to review the evidence in preparation for trial and further time to pursue plea negotiations.

Munson re-set the jury trial to April 27, 2009. The original jury trial schedule was Feb. 17, 2009.

Inos was remanded back into the custody of the U.S. Marshal.

Inos was arrested last Dec. 18 after he was indicted with one count of Hobbs Act robbery and one count of use of a firearm in the commission of a violent crime.

The charges were filed in connection with the armed robbery at Rota Poker last Aug. 4.

Police investigation showed that a masked man entered the poker establishment and pointed a rifle at the cashier and demanded money.

Police investigation led to the arrest of Inos. A black AR-15 rifle, its magazine, and three rounds of bullets were also recovered by the police.

The defendant was charged separately in the Superior Court over that robbery. He is the son of Rota Mayor Joseph Inos. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Couple sues hotel over daughter's injuries

A Chinese couple filed yesterday a lawsuit in federal court against the owner of Saipan World Resort in Susupe over the alleged injuries suffered by their daughter at the hotel's waterpark last year.

Zhi Meng Liu and Rong Zhang asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to order World Corp. to pay them damages and court costs.

The plaintiffs, through counsel G. Anthony Long, sued World Corp. for negligence.

Long stated in the complaint that on Feb. 16, 2008, Mrs. Zhang was with her 10-year-old daughter on Saipan for the Chinese New Year.

At that time, Zhang and her daughter were guests at Saipan World Resort.

On that day, while the daughter was playing at the waterpark, she had an accident that caused her to "suffer bodily and personal injuries."

"Because of the bodily injury and personal harm suffered [by the child] at the waterpark, her vacation on Saipan ended prematurely and she returned to China," Long said.

The lawyer said the defendant failed to provide adequate notice of warnings of the park's hazards. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

ILLEGAL

From Page 1

within the area, Tudela said.

Early in the afternoon of Dec. 27, a police detective was seen conducting such illegal activity behind the China House Restaurant on Beach Road in south Garapan, with about 30 participants, he said.

Then on Dec. 28, another illegal cockfighting activity was conducted in the Kagman area.

Tudela said other areas where the illegal gambling was conducted were in Chalan Kiya's Airport Road and in Dandan, both held between 8pm and 11pm.

The mayor said video footages of all these illegal activities were collected and will be used as evidence once a formal complaint is filed against the violators.

Tudela recalled that a similar incident was reported to him in November, when a member of the Cockfight Board was allegedly seen within an area where the illegal activity was being held.

He said the alleged activity was immediately investigated and an understanding was amicably settled between the accused board member, the licensed cockfight operator, and the mayor.

Legal operator

The mayor said his office authorizes only one licensed operator each year, based on a public bidding process, in accordance with the provisions of the Saipan Cockfighting Act of 1994 and CNMI Code.

Saipan Cockfight, which is located on Middle Road in Gualo Rai, is the only one permitted to operate on Saipan.

The mayor said that illegal operators have minimal facility and are mobile.

"Their arenas are inadequate for public safety and pose health and safety hazards, especially when sales of food and drinks in these locations are conducted without the necessary permits from authorized government agencies," Tudela noted.

Additionally, the mayor said, these illegal operators pay no taxes and take money away from individuals who otherwise would spend the money on licensed business.

Also, "illegal cockfight arenas are not insured, unlike a licensed cockpit establishment that is fully responsible for all its patrons should there be any untoward incidents arising during regular hours of operations," Tudela said.

Warning out

Tudela issued a warning yesterday against those involved in illegal cockfighting and a reminder for people not to attend such prohibited activities.

Tudela said he will seek the assistance of the Department of Public Safety and the Office of the Attorney General to strictly enforce all applicable laws and regulations related to cockfight operations on Saipan.

He said he would ask the Attorney General to prosecute all violators.

Violators may be fined $600 or more or imprisonment of not more than three months or both.

HAWAIIAN

From Page 1

shirts that had been made in Hawaii since the 1930s. Tourists began flocking to Hawaii in the 1950s as faster airplanes allowed for easier travel and the former U.S. territory became a state in 1959. The tropical-print shirts for men and sundresses for women became standard and sometimes tacky souvenirs for travelers, but Shaheen raised the garments to the level of high fashion with artistic prints, high-grade materials and quality construction.

Even Elvis Presley wore a Shaheen-designed red aloha shirt featured on the album cover for the "Blue Hawaii" soundtrack in 1961.

Born into a family established in the textile business, Shaheen maintained high standards by controlling the process from start to finish at the factory he built in Honolulu. He hired professional artists and silk-screened their designs on silk, rayon and cotton fabrics he imported to Hawaii, then his seamstresses cut and pieced together garments that were sold at his own shops and other retail outlets in Hawaii or exported to the mainland and around the world.

"He was a genius," Dale Hope, art director for the Honolulu-based Kahala shirt maker and author of *The Aloha Shirt: Spirit of the Islands*, told the *Los Angeles Times*. "He knew more about the inner workings of all of the elements of printing, the garment business and wholesaling and retailing and distribution. He was really a bright, sharp and smart man."

Linda Arthur, a professor of textiles and clothing at Washington State University who has written extensively about the Hawaiian fashion industry, said that, "Before Shaheen came along, there was no Hawaii garment industry. There were mom and pop stores but no real modern industry."

Shaheen was born Jan. 31, 1922, in New Jersey, where his father and grandfather owned textile mills and clothing stores. He moved to the L.A. area with his family when his father decided to relocate.

YANA

From Page 1

Atalig and Yana have been in detention since March 2008 after finding them in civil contempt in connection with the Malite probate.

Govendo granted the temporary release after Atalig informed the court that their lawyer, Douglas Cushnie, who is off-island, should be allowed to argue.

Atalig and Yana also submitted documents in court to explain how they spent the money they received from the Malite estate. They also submitted their hourly billings.

The judge told Atalig to inform Cushnie to be ready at the Jan. 16 hearing because he will not postpone the proceeding.

Govendo also told Atalig to specify where the money he received from the Malite probate went and to not just state that he gave it to his wife.

Govendo asked Atalig to submit more documents in court.

Release from jail

Yana requested Govendo to issue a written order for their release and give that order to DOC.

Govendo agreed and said: "So they will not come hunting for you."

Atalig replied: "They're [DOC] very good in hunting!"

Yana, who was the first to argue, pointed out that the court has not decided yet on the contingency fee issue in this case. Yana also requested copies of the checks he wrote that attorney Stephen Nutting had obtained. Yana said he did not keep track of his checks and that some of the check records were missing from his office.

Yana also brought to the court's attention the CNMI Supreme Court ruling that the jail term for civil contempt should not exceed six months. "Based on this, we should be released by now," said Yana.

Govendo said he would review that decision.

Atalig, on the other hand, argued that their submission showing that they should actually be receiving over $2 million in billing rather than $1.1 million was to show the court the number of hours they spent on this case.

Atalig reminded the court that the Malite estate started with $3,000 only but, due to their efforts, it eventually got $3.4 million.

Atalig also stated that under the law they should be entitled to a lawyer, to which Govendo replied: "You two attorneys took $1 million out of the estate and you need an attorney?"

Govendo said he asked the two lawyers to explain in detail how much of the $1.1 million had already been spent so he will know if there is still some money left.

Atalig and Yana said the entire amount has already been spent.

"You were both supposed to manage money. As an attorney, where you're dealing with your clients, you should be responsible," Govendo said.

Resolution

Attorney Nutting, who represents the Malite heir claimants, told *Saipan Tribune* after the hearing that he sees no problem with the temporary release of the two lawyers.

"The Malite family and myself and Mr. Smith [attorney F. Mathew, who also represents the heir claimants] are all anxious to have this case resolved. I think the judge has given them great leniency in terms of their rights to due process and allowing them to bring a lawyer in finally to try to resolve some of the issues," Nutting said.

He said yesterday was supposed to be the last day to resolve issues relative to the attorney's fees that Yana and Atalig received.

"Unfortunately it was not, because of their request for an attorney. Hopefully, next Friday will be the last day we can have this issue resolved as far as the estate is concerned," Nutting said.

Essentially, Nutting said, Atalig and Yana submitted attorney's fees in excess of $2 million for working on the Malite estate.

"When you break down the amount of fees, they [Yana and Atalig] supposedly spent thousands of hours in researching land documents. Most of the entries they submitted appear to be very excessive," he said.

Because of this excessiveness, Nutting said, the Superior Court may deny the fees altogether, pursuant to a CNMI Supreme Court decision.

"My argument is…that the fees are vague [and] excessive and the only way you can prevent those kinds of excessive and vague fees is to deny the fees altogether," Nutting said.

Resolution

Atalig believes that "we are getting close to final resolution."

"You've got to understand that these are two to three years down the road. It's like going back, trying to remember, recall, I think my power of recollection is still there. I'm working on it," Atalig said.

Atalig said the issue is not returning the money, but determining the reasonableness of the fees as awarded in the civil case.

"We present documents to show that what had been awarded was more than reasonable because you've got to start with $3,000. The Malite estate had $3,000 on. When I came to this case, I got it raised to $3.4 million. So the Malite family received an enhancement of the estate. Because of the enhancement, we are entitled to an enhancement fee," he said.

Atalig pointed out that the contingency fee was based on the Malite family's decision.

"I understand that there is a prohibition on contingency fees in probate cases but this is not about a prohibition. This was previously distributed in 1997. So because that part of the estate was distributed in 1997, a contingency fee is authorized and the family approved that contingency fee, that's why we received one third," he stressed.

In March 2008, Govendo ordered that Yana and Atalig be imprisoned until they return the $1.3 million they got as attorneys' fees. The amount represents $1,138,500 in the civil case and $150,000 in the first distribution in the probate case—a total of $1,288,500.

Since that order, the judge said, neither attorney has returned the fees in full or in part.

OPA report: $6.3 million remains recoverable

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

The Attorney General's Office has failed to follow up with the Office of the Public Auditor on the status of 13 audit reports, totaling approximately $2.6 million, according to OPA.

In the Public Auditor's Dec. 31 summary of the first six months of 2008, the OPA reports it has not received updates on the legal status of the cases. Therefore, the 13 cases from the previous report ending Dec. 31, 2007, remain unchanged.

The OPA also identified approximately$3.7 million in potential recovered money in eight audit reports to various agencies. Again, the Public Auditor did not receive any updates from Jan. 1 to June 30, therefore the $3.7 million from the previous report remains potentially recoverable.

OPA tracked 49 audits during the first six months of 2008, all remaining open or resolved. Of those, 32 are considered delinquent, according to OPA's summary. Delinquent means the recommendations have been open for at least 180 days and the Public Auditor has not been contacted with any updates. The number of delinquent audits increased 6 percent from 30 to 32 during the first six months of 2008 compared to the same period in 2007.

Agencies with delinquents audits as of June 30 include: the Commonwealth Ports Authority, Commonwealth Utilities Corp., Department of Finance, Department of Public Lands, Department of Public Safety, Marianas Visitors Authority, Northern Marianas Islands Retirement Fund, Northern Marianas College and the Public School System.

In the report, OPA also included recommendations issued by private certified public accountant firms, which issued 11 audit reports with 122 recommendations.

"OPA is not responsible for the implementation of those recommendations, but they are included for monitoring purposes," according to the report.

Vehicle sales weaken by 31 percent in December 2008

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

New car sales dropped 31.48 percent in December 2008 as the islands' three auto dealerships—Microl Corp., Joeten Motors, and Triple J Motors—sold only 37 units last month compared to 54 during the same month in 2007.

According to the December 2008 report from the Commonwealth Auto Dealers Association, the 37 units that were driven off the three companies' showrooms and parking lots included 19 cars, three trucks, two vans, and 13 sports utility vehicles.

Microl Corp. experienced the severest drop in sales in December 2008, as the San Jose dealership sold a mere 12 units last month compared to 26 units a year ago—representing a 53.85-percent decrease. In all, it sold a total of seven cars, three SUVs, a truck, and a van last month.

The drop in sales caused the company to cede its traditional leadership in the market, as it only managed to capture 32.43 percent of auto sales in December 2008.

Triple J Motors also felt sales go south, as the Middle Road dealership sold 25 percent less units in December 2008—12 units compared to 16 in December 2007.

The eight cars and four SUVs sold by Triple J Motors represent 32.43 percent of the market, which left it tied with Microl Corp.

Joeten Motors was the only bright spot last month, as the Oleai dealership assumed market leadership after seeing its new car sales increase 8.33 percent in December 2008.

After selling 12 automobiles in December 2007, Joeten Motors sold 13 units last month that gave it a 35.14 percent share of the market. In all, the company sold four cars, two trucks, six SUVs, and a van last month.

Microl Corp. sells Toyota and Chevrolet, while Joeten Motors sells Nissan, Ford, Honda, and Kia. Triple J Motors sells Hyundai, Mitsubishi, Isuzu, Suzuki, Subaru, and Mazda.

Fitial in DC to witness ceremony

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno Fitial has left for Washington D.C., where he will witness the swearing in of Gregorio "Kilili" Sablan as the CNMI's first ever congressional delegate.

Sablan will be sworn in Tuesday, Washington D.C. time (Wednesday on Saipan).

Fitial

While in Washington, Fitial is also expected to meet with other officials including those from the Office of Insular Affairs.

The governor will be accompanied by his wife, Josie, and special legal counsel Howard P. Willens.

Besides Fitial, others who will be attending Sablan's swearing in include outgoing CNMI Resident Rep. Pete A. Tenorio, Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan; and Edward DLG. Pangelinan, the first resident representative of the CNMI to the United States,

All members of the incoming 111th Congress will be sworn-in on Thursday, Jan. 6, 2009. U.S. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi will preside over the ceremonial event in the Rayburn Room just off the main floor of the House of Representatives.

Family and friends will accompany Sablan for his swearing in. Wife Andrea, son Jesse and daughter Patricia are all traveling to be with Sablan when he takes his oath of office.

Sablan has also invited his friend and niece Merced Aldan-Ada to be present and his uncle Joe Borja. James D. Livingstone, a former assistant attorney general in the Northern Marianas, who served as counsel to the Commonwealth Election Commission while Sablan was executive director and who is now a prosecuting attorney with the State of Massachusetts, is another of Sablan's friends who will be on hand.

Yang is new GM of Rota Resort

Rota Resort Country Club has new general manager in the person of Simon Yang.

The 600-acre golf club's owner, JMSH LLC, announced Yang's appointment in a recent media release, stating that the Holiday Resort Spa Guam general manager will hold the two positions concurrently.

"With over 19 years experience in the hospitality industry, Mr. Yang brings a wealth of knowledge and experience specializing in the Asian hospitality market and international service standards," said JMSH LLC.

Yang previously served as executive assistant manager of the Saipan World Resort, involved in the resort renovation and opening of the property.

"Yang continues to explore various opportunities to exert his leadership qualities and stays committed to promoting both the Holiday Resort Spa Guam and the Rota Resort Country Club internationally. With a strong management team from both properties behind him, his democratic leadership style is proving to be an asset to the JMSH family of properties," the media release stated.

The Rota Resort Country Club, which features an 18-hole golf course, was acquired in August 2008 and continues to provide hotel and golf accommodations to its guests.

Aside from Holiday Resort Spa Guam and Rota Resort Country Club, JMSH LLC also owns Alupag Beach Tower, Garden Villa Hotel, Mai'ana Hotel, and Tumon Horizon Condominiums, all in Guam. ***(Mark Rabago)***

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Joeten Kagman grand opening set for mid-January

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

After a soft launch a week before Christmas Day, J.C. Tenorio Enterprises, Inc. will officially open Joeten Kagman later this month.

According to the company's corporate special project manager, Bo Palacios, he hopes to have the $1-million, 5,000-square foot grocery up and running, complete with Joeten's ubiquitous signage and paved parking lot, in mid-January.

"We plan to have a grand opening in January. …I want to say mid-January. We're going to work with our vendors to feature some of the great products that we have. The thing about the Kagman community is they like variety," he said in a recent interview with the *Saipan Tribune*.

MARK RABAGO

J.C. Tenorio Enterprises, Inc. will officially open its $1-million, 5,000-square foot Joeten Kagman store in mid-January.

He added that despite the delay, J.C. Tenorio Enterprises is thrilled that Joeten Kagman soft-opened before the end of 2008.

"Kagman is a bright spot for us in Joeten. We finally [soft] opened in Kagman and it wasn't because of any financial constraints. It was simply because sometimes you get change orders during construction and that pushed back the deadline. We weren't just able to open as early as we liked, but we [soft] opened before Christmas and we're happy we're able to do that."

Palacios said the outpouring of support since Joeten Kagman soft-opened in Dec. 18, especially from the Kagman community, has been excellent.

"We've gotten so many good comments about the opening of our store. Generally, people are saying 'what took you so long.' I can't really answer that, but we're glad we're there and the Kagman community has been very supportive of us and we're extremely happy to extend our services there," he said.

At the end of the day, Palacios said, Joeten Kagman wants to satisfy the community it serves, and that includes people living in the fastest growing village on Saipan.

"Something about the grocery industry is [that] no two tastes are the same. We're still trying to get the feel of what people want in Kagman and customers have been great about telling us what they want," said Palacios. "As we conduct our business there we are going to mold our inventory to what people in Kagman want because it's important. This is their store. It's important that the customers get what they want."

PIC to race rubber ducks for cancer fundraiser

2,009 ducks on sale for $5 each

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

It's not the Year of the Duck, but it may as well be when the sports department of the Pacific Islands Club on Saipan releases 2,009 rubber ducks into the hotel's lazy river on Feb. 21 as part of efforts to help raise money to combat cancer.

The first ever Duck Race for Cancer will be held on that day on Saipan and interested participants may purchase their rubber ducks for the race at just $5 each.

PIC sports manager Lindsey Sosovec said the winner of the race will take home the grand prize of $1,000.

Sosovec said all buyers would also keep their toy ducks after the race.

There are a total of 2009 rubber ducks now for sale.

All proceeds from this event will go to the Marianas March Against Cancer, to be used for helping cancer patients and for research purposes.

During the race itself, the ducks will be launched from the Point Break slide. They will go down the slide and complete one revolution in the lazy river.

The owner of the duck that crosses the finish line first will receive the grand prize.

"This is the first year of the duck race; however, each year the departments at PIC raise money for Marianas March Against Cancer. In the past, we have done coin drives, hot lunches, luminary sales, car washes, bake sales, etc.," Sosovec said.

The first ever Duck Race for Cancer will be held on Feb. 21 on Saipan and interested participants may purchase their rubber ducks for the race at just $5 each.

Those who want to purchase a rubber duck may visit the PIC sports department for payment and they will be provided a specific duck's tag number.

Winners don't need to be present at the race in order to qualify for the grand prize.

English, Math placement test schedule

The Northern Marianas College will be conducting placement tests on the following dates:

English placement tests:

Jan. 8	Thursday	5pm - 8pm	Room D-1
Jan. 9	Friday	1pm - 4pm	Room D-1
Jan. 14	Wednesday	9am - 12pm	Room A-6

Math placement tests:

Jan. 6	Tuesday	10am - 12pm	Room D-1
		5pm - 7pm	Room D-1
Jan. 8	Thursday	10am - 12pm	Room D-1
		5pm - 7pm	Room A-9
Jan. 13	Tuesday	10am - 12pm	Room A-9
Jan. 15	Thursday	5pm - 7pm	Room A-9

Those who wish to take the test must bring a valid photo ID (driver's license, passport or school ID) and pencils. No admittance to the testing room will be allowed after the starting time.

There is a $25 fee each for the English and Math Placement Tests that must be paid in advance at the NMC Cashier (M-F, 8:30am - 4pm). No one will be allowed into the testing room without proof of payment (a receipt for either the placement test fee or the NMC application fee). Payment for the application fee will cover the English placement test fee.

For more information about the English placement test, call Mark Haag at the Languages & Humanities Department at (670) 234-5498 ext. 1733 or 1242.

For more information about the Math placement test, call Glenn Keaton at the Sciences, Mathematics, Health, & Athletics Department at (670) 234-5498 ext. 1200 or 1212. ***(NMC)***

UWM president leaves Saipan for good

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Irene Tantiado, president of the United Workers Movement, has left the CNMI for good.

According to Bridge Capital, LLC, where she is employed as comptroller, Tantiado had been deployed to a new assignment in Laos.

She could not be contacted for comment as of yesterday.

Her office confirmed she was scheduled to leave yesterday morning but could not issue any details about it.

Tantiado

However, a source disclosed that Tantiado would work as a manager for a casino there.

Tandiado had been at the forefront in the struggle for the granting of a legitimate immigration status to long-term alien workers, immediate relative of Freely Associated States and U.S. citizens, and all others who may be affected when the federal government takes over local immigration in June 2009.

She was a former president of the United Coalition of Workers but bolted out to form the UWM.

She called herself an advocate for workers' rights and has also taken on issues critical to the CNMI's population of foreign workers such as the needs of foreign parents with children who have disabilities and the failure of some local insurance companies to pay workers money they are owed through surety bonds.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff, -v- CARMEN R. SALAS, Defendant. — CIVIL ACTION NO. 07-420

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, Pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on June 10, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot 010 K 487, situated in Dandan Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 870 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Survey Official Cadastral Plat No. 010 K 01, dated August 19, 1987, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 87-2913, the description therein being incorporated therein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, January 23, 2009, at the hour of 1:30. p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 12th day of December, 2008

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff, -v- NIEVES OLOPAI ROMOLOR, Defendants. — CIVIL ACTION NO. 06-506

SECOND AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on June 27, 2007, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot 011 G 492, situated in Kagman III Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 841 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Survey Official Cadastral Plat No. 011 G 01, dated December 1, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 93-4178, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, January 23, 2009, at the hour of 1:30. p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 12th day of December, 2008

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff, -v- JOSEPH S. TAITANO and EMILY N. TAITANO, Defendants. — CIVIL ACTION NO. 06-502

SECOND AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, Pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on October 2, 2007, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot 011 G 514, situated in Kagman III Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 767 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Survey Official Cadastral Plat No. 011 G 10, dated December 1, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 93-4178, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, January 23, 2009, at the hour of 1:30. p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 12th day of December, 2008

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff, -v- DOMINIQUE S. PALACIOS and GLORIA S. PALACIOS, Defendants. — CIVIL ACTION NO. 06-0330

AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, Pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on August 15, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot 011 G 735, situated in Kagman III Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 800 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Survey Official Cadastral Plat No. 011 G 14, dated December 1, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 93-4182, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, January 23, 2009, at the hour of 1:30. p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 12th day of December, 2008

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

Merced Cepeda Santos
P.O. Box 5000453
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 256-1226 (h)

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE GUARDIANSHIP OF LILLIAN CEPEDA, An Incompetent, by MERCED CEPEDA SANTOS, Petitioners — FCD GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 08-0712

ORDER SENTING HEARING ON PETITION OF APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIANSHIP FOR INCOMPETENT PERSON

Upon petition of the petitioner, and with good cause appearing therefore, a hearing on the petitioners petition for the appointment as guardian of Lillian Cepeda born on October 9, 1982 shall be heard on the 12th day of January, 2009 at 1:30 p.m. Petitioner shall cause this order to be personally served on the alleged incompetent person at least 10 days before the hearing. The alleged incompetent person must appear or be produced at the hearing scheduled on the date and time set forth above unless satisfactory proof by affidavit or testimony of a duly licensed physician, surgeon, or medical officer shows that he is unable to attend because of physical inability. Except, that, if the alleged incompetent person is a patient at a hospital in the Commonwealth, and affidavit of the medical director of the hospital to the effect that such patient is unable to attend, shall be prima facie evidence of that fact.

It is further ORDERED that Notice of Hearing and nature of the proceedings shall be personally served or mailed at least 10 days before such hearing date to each of the spouse, parents and children, or adult siblings of the alleged incompetent person residing in the Commonwealth. Any relative or friend of the alleged incompetent person may appear and oppose petition.

SO ORDERED this 10th day of December 2008.

/s/
for KENNETH L. GOVENDO,
Associate Judge

Island Snapshots

ETC DONATIONS
The Koblerville Elementary School receives a $500 Educational Tax Credit donation from Palm Resort Saipan through Ray Dela Cruz.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Koblerville Elementary School receives an Educational Tax Credit donation from Joeten Motors through its general manager, Matt Deets.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Koblerville Elementary School receives an Educational Tax Credit donation from Pink House, Townhouse Inc., Marianas Shell, Barney's Pizza, and National Office Supply. "Thank you for your generosity and your support to our school."
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NEW GRADUATE
CNMI native Ana Aldan Salas-Mendiola of As Lito, Saipan graduated from the University of Guam on Dec. 21, 2008, with a bachelor's degree in Psychology and a minor in Sociology. She is the daughter of Antonio S. Salas and Teresita Aldan-Toomata of Saipan. She is married to Dennis C. Mendiola of Rota and they have two children, Brian Anthony S. Mendiola and Deseha Iha S. Mendiola. She currently resides in Mangilao, Guam. Pictured from left to right, best friend and kumaire Kimberly Attao Concepcion, son Brian Anthony, daughter Deseha Iha and graduate Ana Aldan Salas-Mendiola after the ceremony held at the UOG Fieldhouse. Congratulations on all your accomplishments!
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MOBIL DONATION
Hopwood Junior High School is presented with a $2,000 donation from Mobil Oil Marianas by Cecile B. Suda in support of the school's efforts to improve reading and growth. "Special thanks to Ms. Suda for her dedication toward educational goals. Take care and we will never forget your support, time, and efforts with our school. We will never forget your vibrant energy and dedication you shared to Hopwood students and staff. All of us at Hopwood and especially the Mobil family will miss you dearly." From Hopwood principal Christine Masga, Hopwood staff, students, community, and Mobil staff.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CHRISTENING
Baby Isa Mina Dosalua celebrates her christening on Jan. 3, 2009, at the JC Café on Tinian. She is shown here with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Augustine Dosalua, and sister Shalleine.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

END OF THE LINE
CNMI Resident Representative to Washington Pedro A. Tenorio brings down the CNMI flag that was displayed daily at the entrance to the Marianas House in Washington D.C. The Office of the Resident Representative has been abolished with the enactment of P.L. 110-229 , which finally granted the CNMI a Delegate to the U.S. Congress.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
Happy belated birthday to Kaeana Faith Norita. Greetings come from *nina* Jocelyn Kapileo.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

SAIPANDA GREETING
A holiday surprise was in store for children arriving at Saipan International Airport on 25 holiday flights on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The first CNMI Resident Representative to Washington, Edward DLG Pangelinan, left, and the last, Pedro A. Tenorio, fold the CNMI Flag on the last day of the Marianas House in Washington, DC as the Office of the Resident Representative.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Camp Susupe 'guest' to visit Saipan

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MarshaRose Joyner and her mom find Saipan on a globe (circa 1946).

As an 8-year-old girl at the close of World War II, MarshaRose Joyner—daughter of a military father stationed on Saipan—has fond memories of climbing the fence around the Camp Susupe Detention Center, and sneaking in to play with the Chamorro children living within the compound.

On Jan. 19, 2009, Joyner returns to Saipan for the first time since 1949, to deliver a special keynote address for the third annual MLK Day Commemoration organized by Saipan's African American Cultural Preservation Committee Inc., with support by the Northern Marianas Council for the Humanities.

"We're privileged and honored to have Ms. Joyner return to Saipan and share her story with us for MLK day," says Joe Hill, AACPC committee president. "As people who actually lived during those times get harder to find, it's rare to find individual servicemen who were stationed here to tell their story, rarer still to find entire families. So to have the perspective of a civilian dependent who is also African-American, and who actually spent time inside the camp, is quite unique."

Joyner's connection to the Pacific region is a unique one. MarshaRose's father—Marshall Hood—a sergeant in the U.S. Army, was assigned to an ordnance unit (recovering unexploded bombs, equipment etc.) after the battle of Saipan. In 1946, after traveling on military orders with her mother cross-country by train from Maryland to California, then by steamship to Hawaii, then by seaplane to Guam—where they reunited with her dad—the family journeyed to Saipan where they stayed until 1949. Even at that young age, the experience had a profound effect on her.

Having lived and experienced her memorable U.S.-to-Pacific Island journey during the "Jim Crow" era in the U.S., where white racism was law, she was witness to, and victim of, one brand of prejudice and segregation. On Saipan, she witnessed another form of segregation and discrimination at Camp Susupe. She went on to be an activist for many civil rights causes, accumulating many honors and accomplishments, and then returning to Hawaii in 1970, where she currently resides (excerpt from her memoirs will be available online). She is an advocate of indigenous rights as project director for the Pacific Justice and Reconciliation Center.

This wife, mother, grandmother and cancer survivor says of her life's purpose, "I see my role in life as a grain of sand. To make a truly beautiful pearl there must be a grain of sand in the oyster. To make a truly beautiful world…there must be people like me…the irritants that keep everything growing."

As part of this year's upcoming MLK commemorative activities in the CNMI, (this year's theme: *Color of Unity, the Pacific Way*) she will be sharing her lifelong perspectives on the significance of Martin Luther King, the Civil Rights Movement, and its impact on the people and way of life here in the Pacific.

Plans are for Joyner to conduct workshops on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. She will be arriving on Saipan on Tuesday, Jan. 13, at 8:50pm. (All are welcome to come out to greet her at the airport; use contact number below first as some items on schedule are subject to change).

The MLK Day event, mini-march, forum, essay finalist performances, and keynote address will take place on Monday, Jan. 19, 2009, at American Memorial Park beginning with a public forum at 1pm. All are invited to attend and participate.

Monday, Jan. 19, 2009, marks the third official commemoration of Martin Luther King Day since Gov. Benigno Fitial signed the bill enacting Martin Luther King Jr. Day as an official CNMI holiday. ***(PR)***

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Note: some items subject to change

Jan. 10	Finalist selection for the student essay contest ("What Would Martin Say?"), American Memorial Park auditorium; email mlkcontest@welovesaipan.com;
Jan. 13	MarshaRose Joyner arrives on Saipan 8:50pm;
Jan. 14	Workshops at schools on Tinian;
Jan 15	Workshops at schools on Saipan;
Jan 16	Workshops at schools on Rota
Jan 19	Martin Luther King Day Forum: 1pm-2 pm; Mini-March through Garapan: 3pm-4pm Program and keynote: 4pm-6pm
Jan. 20	Workshops at schools on Saipan
Jan. 21	Dinner (details to follow)

Details may be found on BlacksOnSaipan.com. Contact Joe Hill at 670 234-6806.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MarshaRose Joyner poses with then Senator Barack Obama in Hawaii in this 2004 file photo.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

January 6, 1999

Gloom hangs over CNMI

As Japan's economy remains in the dump, one of the biggest tour operators on Saipan is projecting a 10 percent slide in the number of Japanese visitors handled by the company. Koki Narita, president of Tasi Tours, said it is expecting to bring in some 85,000 to 90,000 Japanese travelers this year, the same number of tourists it handled in 1996. Tasi Tours is an affiliate of Pacific Micronesia Tours and Japan Travel Bureau, the largest wholesaler in Japan. "I'm afraid I'm not too optimistic that we will see some recovery this year. We have not reached the bottom yet," Narita said.

902 talks on track, Sablan says

Lt. Gov. Jesus R. Sablan, head of the CNMI 902 panel, yesterday said talks with the United States will push through this month amid growing apprehension that consultations might face another delay because of wide gap in the agenda. According to Sablan, discussions will proceed on January 18 on Saipan as proposed by President Bill Clinton's special representative, Edward B. Cohen. Some members of the panel, however, said they are worried that Cohen's proposal to touch transition to federalization of local immigration and minimum wage would push back talks since it is not within the parameters of discussion envisioned by the commonwealth.

January 6, 2000

FBI probes SBDC

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has begun its probe on former director of the Small Business Development Center administered by the Northern Marianas College for possible federal program fraud and other violations of U.S. laws. The center has drawn controversy in recent weeks after the U.S. Small Business Administration terminated its contract with NMC and transferred the program to the Commonwealth Development Authority—a move which college officials and some lawmakers described as personal vendetta by its ex-director, Jack Peters. A letter from the U.S. Office of Inspector General indicated that the FBI office on Guam has been tasked to investigate Mr. Peters, who now heads the Pacific Islands SBDC Network based in the University of Guam.

Tito Sablan: 'I made a wrong decision'

The federal court yesterday handed down its sentence to the last of three prominent individuals implicated in a bribery case over federally-funded projects on Tinian, ending more than two years of efforts by the U.S. government to prosecute the suspects. Tito Sablan, who has shares at family-owned Sablan Enterprises, received nearly identical sentence given to his uncle, Jesus Sablan, general manager of Sablan Construction Ltd., Inc., on Tuesday in connection with the case investigated by FBI. Tagged by Judge Alex Munson as the "bagman," Tito Sablan evaded jail sentence of up to 18 months and instead would spend the next two years under probation, beginning immediately and subject to several conditions.

January 6, 2003

MPLA softens toward CPA

The Marianas Public Lands Authority may finally agree to issue land titles to the Commonwealth Ports Authority but subject to strict conditions. MPLA board chairperson Ana Demapan-Castro said the board "is open to such possibility" but only under "strict conditions." When asked whether the board may reconsider its earlier decision on awarding use rights only to CPA, Demapan-Castro said: "It may change, depending on the agreement conditions." She said, though, that the any changes would have to be made by the whole board. Personally, she said she might allow CPA to get titles only if it agrees to remit at least 20 percent of its collections to MPLA. "That would be fair. It's give and take. I won't just give [the titles] without conditions," she said.

Pagan's high-quality ash eyed for export

A private developer is asking for a government permit to do research and explore the possibility of exporting the volcanic ashes of Pagan in the Northern Islands. This, following findings that Pagan's fine ash, commonly known as pozzolan, is of high natural quality and could be found in only three locations in the world—Italy (Mt. Vesuvius), Greece (Santorini volcano), and Northern Islands. The other two have lately been dormant, leaving Pagan as the only active volcano that produces top quality pozzolan. Jess Palacios, president of Azmar International, said his company has applied for the research permit with the Marianas Public Lands Authority.

Pacific

Solomons' Kemakeza released from jail

HONIARA, Solomon Islands (Solomon Star/PIR)—Convicted former prime minister Sir Allan Kemakeza was lucky to spend New Year's night celebrations with his family.

He was released from Rove Prison on New Year's eve after serving his six-month jail term.

Sir Allan was jailed for ordering ex-militants to attack Honiara law firm Sol-Law in 2002 when he was prime minister.

He automatically lost his Savo/Russells seat, but parliament recently passed a motion for Sir Allan to retain the seat pending his appeal against the six month jail term.

This means Sir Allan continues to enjoy the privileges of a Member of Parliament. The Court of Appeal is expected to hear his appeal case June this year.

Deputy Commissioner Administration Correctional Services Heinz Konga confirmed to the Solomon Star Sir Allan has served his term.

"I can confirm that Sir Allan has been released because he has finished serving his term in prison," Mr Konga said.

He explained Sir Allan was supposed to be released on New Year's Day but it is a prison policy that he could not be released on a public holiday so he had to be released a day earlier.

Mr Konga added this policy not only applies to Sir Allan but every prisoner and this had also happened in the past.

Sir Allan, one of the longest serving MPs, is currently in his home village on Savo and could not be reached for comments yesterday.

A close relative said Sir Allan head off straight to his home village after he was released on Wednesday.

PACIFIC BRIEFS

Four dead in 7.6 western Papua quake

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—Eyewitnesses in Papua speak of collapsed buildings in earthquake that killed four. Eyewitnesses in the Indonesia province of Papua have spoken of mass panic and collapsing buildings after a series of powerful earthquakes. At least four people have been killed and dozens injured. The strongest tremor, with a magnitude of 7.6, struck north of the city of Manokwari. It was followed by another big quake and a string of aftershocks. A tsunami alert was issued by Indonesian authorities following the earthquakes, but withdrawn within an hour. Assessment teams and medical supplies are expected to begin arriving shortly.

Private attorney to try American Samoa officials

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—The American Samoa High Court has granted the government's application to appoint an independent attorney to prosecute four employees of the Attorney General's office. This clears the way for the government to charge Stoechert Allen, Tiresa Su'a, Rosalia Fuavai Burgess and Lancaster Allen over missing immigration fees that the public paid for certificates of identity. The Chief Justice will now appoint a three member judicial panel to select an independent prosecutor to bring charges against the four suspects accused in the disappearance of over US$80,000 in immigration fees.

Cook Islands face shrinking population

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—The Cook Islands Foreign Affairs Minister, Wilkie Rasmussen, says keeping the population at home will be one of the big challenges for 2009. He says he knows of people getting ready to move to Australian and New Zealand in the New Year. "Some of the outer islands people are already packing up to leave for Australia or New Zealand because the budgets for the outer island operations and administrations are much less than what they got in the last year and it has been decreasing." Wilkie Rasmussen, says the government needs to do more to support the economy. He's called for both the Prime Minister, and the Deputy Prime Minister to step down saying the government is under performing

New Caledonia elections set for May

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—New Caledonia's next general election is to be held on May the 10th. Voters will be asked to choose three provincial assemblies for a five-year term which in turn will determine the make-up of the 54-member Congress. New Caledonia's daily newspaper says the date of May the 10th was chosen despite it being at the end of a long weekend as the electoral provisions dictate that polling be held within five years of the previous election of May 2004. This year's election comes after continued fracturing of the dominant anti-independence camp, with the pro-independence movement vying to emerge as the single largest party in the new legislature

Bainimarama to attend Pacific forum

SUVA, Fiji (Fiji live/PIR)—Fiji's interim Prime Minister Commodore Voreqe Bainimarama says he is ready to meet Pacific leaders in Papua New Guinea later this month. In his New Year's message, Bainimarama reaffirmed his attendance at the Special Forum leaders meeting on January 27, which would decide Fiji's continued membership. "I will be attending the forum leaders' meeting this month and I look forward to constructive engagement and dialogue that will be in the interest of our country," he said. Bainimarama's Government has come under criticism for failing to commit to the early 2009 election deadline it had promised at the Forum leaders' meeting in Niue last year. Suspension from the Pacific Islands Forum would spell more trouble for Fiji, but Bainimarama is adamant that his Government will not be bullied into submitting to outside demands.

Air New Zealand flies on biofuel

MELBOURNE, Australia (Radio Australia/PIR)—Air New Zealand says it has successfully flown a test flight powered by second-generation biofuel, calling it a "significant milestone" in the development of sustainable aircraft fuels.

The airline used a 50-50 blend of standard jet fuel and synthetic fuel made from the oil of jatropha plant seeds, to power one of the engines on a Boeing 747 during the two-hour test flight.

The flight was the first to use jatropha biofuel, and follows an earlier Virgin Atlantic test flight this year which used a blend of oils including coconut and babassu nut.

"We undertook a range of tests on the ground and in flight with the jatropha biofuel performing well through both the fuel system and engine," Air New Zealand chief pilot Dave Morgan said.

Morgan says further studies will be carried out on the engine and fuel systems as the airline moves toward having jatropha certified as an aviation fuel.

New Zealand Prime Minister John Key, who is also tourism minister, called the flight a "historic day for aviation."

Critics have warned that while biofuels may offer a more sustainable alternative to fossil fuels, their use may contribute to the turning over of farmland to cultivate biofuel at the expense of food crops.

Test Pilot , Captain Keith Pattie carries out pre-flight checks before their test of a Bio Fuel mixture in the left hand engine of Boeing 747 in Auckland, New Zealand, Tuesday, Dec. 30, 2008.
AP

Qarase seeks chiefly Fijian title

SUVA, Fiji (Fiji live/PIR)—Fiji's ousted Prime Minister Laisenia Qarase may qualify to be a member of the traditional leaders` council after his installation as chief of his village.

According to Fijian Affairs Board spokesman Kini Rarubi, the decision on whether or not Qarase is eligible to be part of the Bose ni Turaga will be the board's.

"If he qualifies as a turaga-i-taukei then probably the board will extend an invitation to him for the next meeting," he said.

[PIR editor's note:] Turaga I taukei is a highest ranking chief who traditionally has overarching authority over several mataqalis (land owning unit) and villages at the yavusa level. The yavusa is a socio political unit within the larger political structure of indigenous Fijian society.

Qarase was bestowed the title of Tui Kubuca in a traditional ceremony on Mavana Village in Vanuabalavu on New Year's Day.

As Tui Kubuca, Qarase is the leader of Yavusa Qalita, consisting of four sub-clans.

The title was vacant after the death of the previous holder, Josefa Cagi, in April last year.

Last month, more than 120 chiefs representing various clans, sub clans and provinces attended the two-day Bose ni Turaga at the Queen Elizabeth Barracks in Suva.

The interim Government plans to call another similar meeting early this year.

Solomons official apologizes for drunken brawl

HONIARA, Solomon Islands (Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corp./PIR)—A Ministry Foreign Affairs officer who in November caused an international incident in Taiwan when he damaged a store and injured three policemen during a drunken fight has made a public apology.

The apology was published in today's Solomon Star.

William Marau who was in Taiwan to attend a training program said he was deeply sorry for his very unprofessional behaviour. He said he had taken too much alcohol and misbehaved to a degree where be became aggressive to personnel of the military college where he attended a training course.

Mr. Marau said language and communication difficulties might have led to a woman from the store calling for police which led to his arrest and the punches he might have have made to one of the three police officers.

He said they all fell over a rack of magazines in the store which was reported as damages.

Marau said the injuries sustained by the police officers were nothing more than scratches and a small bruise on the officer he had punched.

He took full responsibility for the unfortunate incident and said it was a big lesson for him.

Fiji scholar says Bainimarama acting on poor advice

SUVA, Fiji (Fiji live/PIR)—A political analyst with the Australian National University believes the advice given to Fiji's interim Prime Minister is counterproductive.

Dr Brij Lal, a co-architect of Fiji's current Constitution, made the comments following the recent expulsion of Caroline Macdonald, New Zealand's High Commissioner to Fiji.

Dr Lal said by punishing Australia and New Zealand, Fiji was not going to gain anything.

"I don't know who is advising the Prime Minister but the advice he's getting is really counterproductive in Fiji's long-term interest in the region," he said. "I think what has happened is that Fiji sees Australia and New Zealand as the principal players orchestrating this anti-interim government move in the region and internationally and therefore they are trying to punish these two countries.

"I think this is a shortsighted view because it's not really Australia and New Zealand but the international community that is looking for some movement on the part of Fiji to restore the country back to parliamentary democracy.

"Australia, New Zealand, United Nations, United States and the Commonwealth have all taken a position which is Fiji should return to parliamentary democracy in a timely fashion."

He said the only hope of Fiji holding elections any time soon was if interim Prime Minister Commodore Voreqe Bainimarama took up the United Nation's offer to mediate the next political forum early in the New Year.

"The UN in partnership with the Commonwealth is prepared to get involved in a political dialogue in Fiji and I honestly hope that the interim Government will accept this offer because that one chance to break the impasse and move the country forward and it's simple that Fiji cannot grow alone so this initiative by the UN is something the government should look at it very carefully because it doesn't have to many options left."

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

Aim for a better cease-fire

In launching airstrikes on the Gaza Strip, Israel has exercised its right to self-defense. Since the collapse Dec. 19 of a cease-fire between Israel and Hamas, the Palestinian movement that controls the territory, residents of southern Israel have been terrorized by cross-border rocket attacks. When the Bush administration sympathized with Israel's response to that provocation, it wasn't simply catering to pro-Israel sentiments in this country; it was placing blame where it belongs.

Still, as Prime Minister Ehud Olmert must have expected, an air campaign aimed at tunnels and rocket batteries has killed dozens of innocent civilians while inviting—at least in the short term—more attacks on Israel than occurred before the operation. The longer this campaign goes on, the more disproportionate Israel's actions will seem. Israel must desist as soon as it has neutralized the threat of rocket attacks, either through its own actions or as the result of a new and more robust cease-fire of the kind being pursued by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

Israeli leaders have sent mixed signals about whether the country has larger ambitions. Defense Minister Ehud Barak has spoken of an "all-out war against Hamas and its kind," while other officials have suggested that the campaign aims only to neutralize Hamas' capacity to threaten Israeli civilians. Aside from the additional carnage it would cause, an attempt to uproot Hamas would damage the already moribund peace process—and without removing Hamas from the political equation.

When Israel invaded Lebanon in 1982, routing Palestinians who had established a state within a state, some Israelis thought the Palestine Liberation Organization would expire. In fact, even in exile, PLO leader Yasser Arafat retained the loyalty of Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank. Eventually, after years of exasperating equivocation, Arafat recognized the reality of the Jewish state.

Might Hamas undergo a similar evolution? Officially, the movement refuses to acknowledge Israel's legitimacy (much as the PLO once did), offering Israel only a "hudna," or 10-year truce. But some Hamas officials have suggested that the group would agree to plans that implicitly recognize Israel's right to exist, such as a Saudi Arabian initiative calling for Israel to return to its pre-1967 borders.

Until Hamas explicitly recognizes Israel and renounces terrorism, it cannot be Israel's partner in negotiations on a permanent solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. In the past, however, Israel pragmatically has agreed through intermediaries to practice restraint if Hamas did. If, as the result of this operation, a more reliable cease-fire can be negotiated, Israel should consider that a victory.

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Waiting for things to get worse

By EYAD EL-SARRAJ
Special to The Washington Post

Eyad El-Sarraj, a psychiatrist, is the founder and president of the Gaza Community Mental Health Program and a commissioner of the Palestinian Independent Commission for Human Rights.

GAZA CITY—Could it be that things will get even worse? As the weekend drew near, we heard frantic talk that Israeli troops could soon arrive once again at our doorstep. What then? Already we have experienced so much terror and want.

When the Israeli strikes first began, my wife and I were worrying about lentils. She said we could not have lentil soup for lunch because there were no lentils in the shops. Nor any rice or flour. Suddenly there was a deafening noise, followed by a succession of blasts the likes of which I had never experienced. Our house was rocking, the windows rattling in their panes.

Panicked, we ran into the small hallway. My sister-in-law, who lives upstairs, joined us, frantic because her young daughter was not yet home from school. Sari, a boy from the neighborhood, banged on our door asking for shelter. He trembled as he told us that he'd been on his way home from school in a taxi when there was a thundering blast. The driver stopped the car and ran for cover. The passengers scattered in all directions. Sari found himself running aimlessly. The explosions seemed to be chasing him, he said. Suddenly, he came upon people lying bleeding in the street. He went up to a man, wanting to help him, and touched his hand. It was nothing but a piece of burnt flesh. Somebody shouted at him to get away, so he ran off.

The news came over the telephone and the television. More than 200 people had been killed and even more wounded in less than 10 minutes. The numbers were climbing and the funeral scenes filled the TV screen. Apparently F16s had dropped more than 100 tons of bombs on crowded Gaza and had hit more than 300 targets in one mission. The pilots must have reported back to their commanders that their mission had been accomplished. But they never reported the pain and suffering of the innocent people and the fear their fighters had spread in the hearts of our children.

Noor, my stepdaughter, was silent throughout the day. Then she suddenly burst out alternately crying and laughing hysterically. She is a bright girl with artistic talents. She wants to write poetry.

On Monday, the phone rang. It was my friend Salam, asking for advice. His four children, ages 11, 9, 7 and 5, had wet their beds the night before. They'd mostly outgrown that a long time ago.

Three days after the attacks began, Fawaz Abu Sitta, a professor of political science at Al-Azhar University here, was declared dead on the radio. The announcer said that the rubble of a bombed ministry building had completely smothered his small villa. A friend who happened to hear the broadcast alerted civil defense officials to search Fawaz's basement. They did, and Fawaz was rescued along with his wife, his children and his elderly mother.

This carnage goes on, as does another humanitarian crisis brought about by the Israeli siege of Gaza: a lack of medicines, bread, flour, gas, electricity, fuel and almost everything else. The Israeli siege has literally turned Gaza into a massive prison. All our borders are sealed, so there is no way out.

By Tuesday night, Gaza was like a ghost town. Its streets were deserted and people didn't dare to come out of their houses.

The children suffer the most, I think. They see the fear in their mothers' eyes. The image of their fathers as a source of security is shattered. Their fathers could not provide them with food, and now they are unable to protect them. The rockets will eventually stop flying, I am certain, but it may be too late for these children. To me, the chances seem great that they will join Hamas as they search for a replacement for the father figure, someone to provide and protect. In this way, Israeli actions will only strengthen Hamas.

Wisdom tells us that violence can only breed violence. Israel's brutality guarantees that its people will not be secure. Israel may destroy much and kill many in Hamas, but that is not the solution. Hamas was born because of the occupation and won the democratic elections in 2006 because of false promises of peace and people's disillusionment with the Palestinian Authority. Israel and its allies should address Palestinian grievances instead of aggravating them by denying justice and security and by violating basic human rights. Most of the Palestinians in Gaza are here because they were expelled in 1948 when Israel was created. Since then, we have not had a day of freedom or of equal rights with Israelis. We can barely feed our children or provide them with medicine, because Israel controls everything that goes in and out. From where I sit, in the middle of this barrage of bombing, Israel looks to be increasingly living outside the norms of the world community and outside international law.

I am not alone in thinking this. U.N. Human Rights envoy Richard Falk declared that what Israel is doing is a crime against humanity. Former U.S. president Jimmy Carter, South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Mary Robinson, former head of the U.N. Human Rights Commission, have expressed similar views in the past. Israel must be stopped.

It looks increasingly likely, though, that before the missiles stop exploding, we will have more days like last Thursday, when a family that lives across the street came to our house. They had gotten a

See WAITING on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Why Israel is bombing Gaza

By EPHRAIM SNEH
Special to The Washington Post

Sneh, a former member of the Israeli cabinet and deputy defense minister from 1999 to 2001 and from 2006 to 2007, is chairman of the Strong Israel party.

When demands are made of Israel to halt its military activities in Gaza, a brief historical reminder is in order.

In September 2005, Israel vacated Gaza, dismantled all the settlements in the Gaza Strip and did not leave a shred of a presence there.

In January 2006, rule over Gaza passed to the Hamas government under Ismail Haniyeh. Instead of bringing investors to Gaza, the Hamas government brought the guerrilla-warfare trainers of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard. Instead of launching economic projects, this government launched rockets every day at Israeli towns and villages across the border. They smuggled in vast amounts of explosives, weapons and rockets; they prepared themselves for battle.

In June 2007, in a brutal and bloody military coup, Hamas took control of Gaza and soon killed or chased out the leaders of President Mahmoud Abbas's Fatah movement. Gaza became nothing less than a military base for Iran.

Up until the Hamas takeover, 750 trucks would cross the border each day with imports and exports. As Israel's deputy defense minister at the time, I was in charge of this activity and promoted this trade with Gaza, since the border crossings were being controlled by Abbas's Presidential Guard, not by terrorists. The Hamas takeover is what in effect locked the gates of Gaza and forced its residents to suffer.

The rain of rockets on Israel citizens intensified. The cease-fire that lasted from June until Dec. 19 was used by Hamas to increase its military strength—mainly to smuggle in Grad-type rockets from Iran, which have a range of 20 miles. In recent days, these missiles have struck cities such as Ashdod, Israel's main port, and Beersheva, the capital of Israel's south. No sovereign state would have resigned itself to having its cities—cities such as Houston or Atlanta—bombarded. No sovereign state would allow itself to be hit by even a single missile. That is the reason for the military campaign that Israel launched this week in a series of aerial strikes.

But the campaign's objective is not to end the rocket fire. The true objective should be the end of Hamas rule in Gaza. Israel cannot resign itself to having a missile and terror base five miles from one of its principal cities, Ashkelon.

Gaza's Palestinians, too, in telephone and e-mail conversations, are expressing their urgent wish to end the nightmare that Hamas has imposed on them. An end to the Hamas regime in Gaza is essential for them, as well. It's impossible to govern Gaza in the absence of close cooperation with Israel on issues of trade, energy, environment, water and health. Those who reject Israel's legitimacy can't provide a normal life for Gaza's 1.5 million residents, who on average are living on $2 a day.

Israel could bring about a collapse of the Hamas regime by means of a lengthy, large-scale ground campaign. With a clear exit strategy lacking, this is not an appealing option for us. At the moment, unfortunately, this is the only option available.

Yet there is another way. Those demanding a cease-fire must produce a comprehensive solution, a "package" containing the following elements:

■ Full dismantling of Hamas's military power in Gaza, including destruction of all stockpiles of rockets and missiles.

■ Transfer of control over border-crossings between Gaza and Egypt and between Gaza and Israel to the Palestinian Authority government of Salam Fayyad.

■ Until the elections to the Palestinian parliament and the presidency in January 2010, Gaza is to be run by a civilian administration appointed by the government in Ramallah.

■ Augmented Egyptian supervision of the border between Gaza and Egypt.

■ The return of kidnapped Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit.

Such an agreement will require international and regional support. Countries such as Turkey, Egypt and Saudi Arabia can play an important role. Syria, if it uses its influence over the Hamas leadership that is comfortably hosted by Damascus, can win points toward any future discussions with the United States and Israel.

In the absence of such a package, the fighting in Gaza will not end. Israel has no reason to end it.

The terrible responsibility of an Israeli

By YOSSI KLEIN HALEVI
Special to The Washington Post

Yossi Klein Halevi is a senior fellow at the Adelson Institute for Strategic Studies of the Shalem Center in Jerusalem and the author of At the Entrance to the Garden of Eden: A Jew's Search for God with Christians and Muslims in the Holy Land.

JERUSALEM—"I just heard on the news that Gavriel's base has been shelled," my wife, Sarah, said to me last Tuesday, referring to our 19-year-old son, a member of an Israeli army tank unit waiting on the Gaza border for the order to enter. And, she added in a deliberately calm tone, "A soldier was killed." We texted Gavriel, and within five minutes he called, safe. How, Sarah asked, did families survive war before cellphones?

For days we waited for a cabinet decision: Will there be a land invasion or a new cease-fire? The politicians began to bicker while our soldiers waited on the border, in the rain and the mud. Anything but this, I said to Sarah. Not another Lebanon War, which, like Gaza, began with an impressive show of Israeli air power but ended with Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah predicting the imminent end of "the Zionist entity." If we don't win this time—deliver an unambiguous blow if not topple Hamas entirely—our deterrence will further erode, inviting more rocket attacks and encouraging the jihadist momentum throughout the Middle East.

And then I caught myself: How can I be hoping for an outcome that will send my son into battle? This is my first experience as the father of a soldier, and now, after 26 years of living in Israel, I finally understand the terrible responsibility of being an Israeli. I had assumed that I'd become initiated into Israeliness when I myself was drafted into the army as a 34-year-old immigrant in 1989. But perhaps only now have I become fully Israeli. Zionism promised to empower the Jews by making them responsible for their fate; the price for that achievement is to be prepared to make the ultimate sacrifice for one's commitments.

I know Gaza from a previous conflict. During the first intifada of the late 1980s, when Palestinians revolted against the occupation, I was part of a reservist unit that patrolled Gaza's refugee camps. There I learned that there is no such thing as a benign occupation, as Israelis had once deceived themselves into believing. Our unit not only arrested terrorist suspects but also dragged people out of their beds in the middle of the night to paint over anti-Israel graffiti and rounded up innocents after a grenade attack just to "make a presence," in army terminology. At night, in our tent, we argued about the wisdom of turning soldiers into policemen of a hostile civilian population that didn't want us there and which we didn't want as part of our society.

A majority of Israelis emerged from the first intifada convinced that we need to do everything possible to end the occupation and ensure that our children don't serve as enforcers of Gaza's despair. That was why I initially supported the 1993 Oslo peace process that took a terrible gamble on Yasser Arafat's supposed transformation from terrorist to peacemaker. And even after it became clear that Arafat and other Palestinian leaders never intended to accept Israel's legitimacy, I supported the unilateral withdrawal from Gaza in 2005, simply to extricate us from that region, knowing that we would not receive peace in return.

And now, as I write, my son waits on the Gaza border. The conflict he and his friends face is far worse than my generation's experience in Gaza. In our time, we were confronted with mere rocks and Molotov cocktails; my son faces Iranian-supplied antitank weapons—one more price we will pay, along with the missile attacks on our towns, for the Gaza withdrawal, just as the Israeli right had warned.

Still, I don't regret that withdrawal. If Israelis are united today about our right to defend ourselves against Gaza's genocidally minded regime, it is at least partly because we are fighting from our international border. My son and his friends have one crucial advantage over my generation's experience in Gaza: They know, as we did not, that Israel was ready to make the ultimate sacrifice for peace, uprooting thousands of its citizens from their homes and endorsing a Palestinian state. My son confronts Gaza knowing that its misery is now imposed by its leaders. He knows that his country was even prepared to share its most cherished national asset, Jerusalem, with its worst enemy, Arafat, for the sake of preventing this war. That empowers him with the moral self-confidence he will need to get through the coming days. The face of my Gaza enemy was a teenager throwing rocks; the face of Gavriel's Gaza enemy is a suicide bomber.

But we are hardly free of moral anxiety. Even as I pray for Gavriel's physical safety, I pray too for his spiritual well-being: that his tank doesn't accidentally shell civilians, that he isn't caught in some terrible mistake, which can so easily happen in a war zone where terrorists hide behind innocent people.

For the past eight years, Israel has fought a single war with shifting fronts, moving from suicide bombings in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv to Katyusha attacks on Israeli towns near the Lebanon border to Qassam missiles on Israeli towns near the Gaza border. That war has targeted civilians, turning the home front into the actual front. And it has transformed the nature of the conflict from a nationalist struggle over Palestinian statehood to a holy war against Jewish statehood. Except for a left-wing fringe, most Israelis recognize the conflict in Gaza as part of a larger war that has been declared against our being and that we must fight.

But how? Even some right-wingers are saying that we should have declared a unilateral cease-fire after the initial airstrike and then dared Hamas to continue shelling our towns, rather than risk another quagmire. And even some left-wingers are saying that we should now destroy the Hamas regime and then offer to turn Gaza over to international control or, if possible, an inter-Arab force led by Egypt. Every option is potentially disastrous. Most Israelis agree on two points: that we cannot live with a jihadist statelet on our border, and that we cannot become occupiers of Gaza again.

The despair of Gaza is contagious. One friend, a Likud supporter, said to me, "I don't know what to hope for anymore."

Meanwhile, I try to reassure myself about Gavriel's safety. Growing up in Jerusalem during the suicide bombings in the early 2000s, he has already known danger, intimacy with death. A 13-year-old acquaintance was stoned to death, and was so mutilated that he could be identified only by his DNA. A friend lost the use of an eye in a bus bombing on his way to school. At least now, Gavriel and his friends can defend themselves. Perhaps one reason most of them volunteered for combat units was because now the generation of the suicide bombings can finally fight back.

Just before the conflict in Gaza began, I happened to visit Gavriel at his base. His unit's barracks had been turned into what young Israelis call a "zula"—a hangout. There were muddy couches, chairs without backs, a darbuka drum, a TV (Jay Leno was on). It could have been a teenage scene anywhere in the West, except that hanging on the walls were Hamas banners captured by the unit's veteran members in a previous round of fighting in Gaza. In a corner of the room hung a photograph of a fallen soldier. Across the bottom someone had written, "What was the rush, Shachar? Why did you have to leave us so soon?"

Even now, perhaps especially now, I feel that our family is privileged to belong to the Israeli story. Gavriel, grandson of a Holocaust survivor, is part of an army defending the Jewish people in its land. This is one of those moments when our old ideals are tested anew and found to be still vital. That provides some comfort as Sarah and I wait for the next text message.

WAITING

From Page 10

phone call telling them to evacuate because their home would soon be bombed. Israelis sometimes make these calls, but you can't always be sure what will happen. Some houses are actually bombed after such messages. But some are hoaxes.

Our neighbors stayed with us for a couple of hours before they found out that the threat was just a joke—a very dark kind of humor.

Then on Friday we got word that my stepdaughter's friend—a Christian—had died from wounds she had sustained earlier in the week. Noor spent the day crying.

So many people are leaving their homes if they can. The people who live near Ismail Haniyeh, the Hamas leader, have fled. The entire neighborhood is empty.

I'm scared, but I'm staying where I am. I'm worried about what will happen next, thinking about the serious bloodshed that will follow if the Israeli forces come through on land. There will be some resistance, and they will fight that resistance. In the process many civilians will be killed.

Hamas fighters will be battling from homes, from the streets, in the middle of the neighborhoods where for now, we wait.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers
▲86° ▼76°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

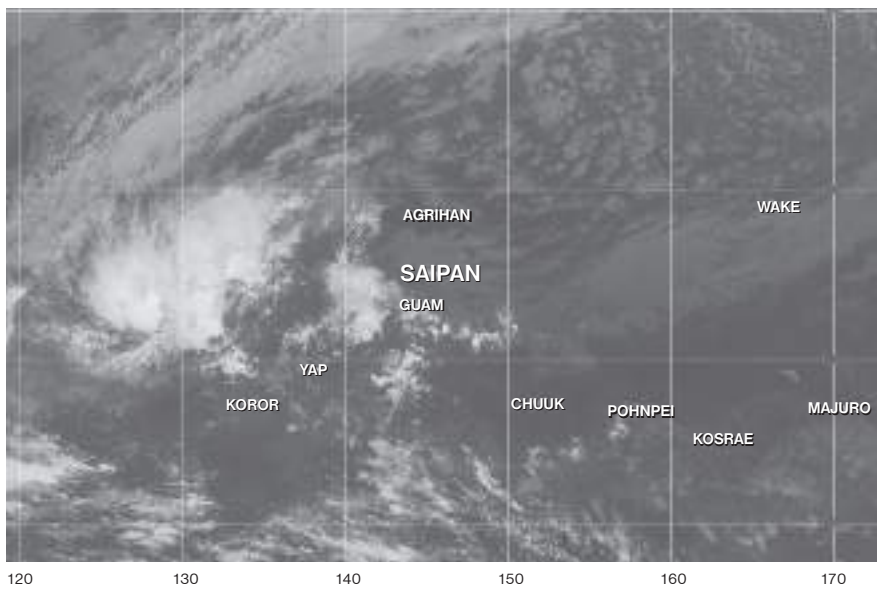
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	▲80	▼73
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	▲86	▼77
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼72
Pohnpei	Showers	▲77	▼74
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲75	▼63
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲37	▼14
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲73	▼61
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲81	▼67
London	Partly Sunny	▲36	▼28
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲66	▼49
Manila	Showers	▲84	▼73
Melbourne	Sunny	▲90	▼61
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲81	▼69
New York	Mostly Cloudy	▲38	▼31
Osaka	Showers	▲47	▼34
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲28	▼20
Pusan	Sunny	▲45	▼27
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	▲49	▼42
Salem	Rain	▲49	▼43
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲57	▼45
Seoul	Sunny	▲37	▼18
Tokyo	Partly Sunny	▲47	▼32
Washington, DC	Showers	▲40	▼35

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, MONDAY, JAN. 5, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A low-level circulation is centered northwest of Palau near 12N129E. Low-level convergence associated with this circulation is producing scattered showers and thunderstorms west of a line from 11N133E to 19N137E. A cold front extends from 24N180 southwestward to 13N164E then continues westward as a shear line south of Guam to end near 11N138E. West of 145E, scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found along and up to 300 miles north of the boundary. East of 145E, cloudiness and patchy rain are found along and up to 250 miles northwest of the boundary. Trade-wind convergence is triggering scattered showers east of Yap within 125 miles of a line from 10N144E to 2N143E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
3:30AM Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
8:06AM Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
2:10PM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
9:52PM Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:45AM	6:01 PM
Wednesday	6:45AM	6:01 PM
Thursday	6:45AM	6:02 PM
Friday	6:46AM	6:03 PM
Saturday	6:46AM	6:03 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	1:03PM	1:16 AM
Wednesday	1:53PM	2:16 AM
Thursday	2:51PM	3:20 AM
Friday	3:55PM	4:27 AM
Saturday	5:04PM	5:34 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 1, 2009

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota			
CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7
Saipan-Guam			
CO9317	5:00am	5:50am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	2,3,4,5,6
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily
Saipan-Narita			
NW 099	5:00am	7:35am	Daily
NW 078	8:20am	1:30pm	2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 075	4:55pm	7:30pm	Daily
Guam-Narita			
NW 73	4:10pm	7:00pm	Daily
NW 81	3:55pm	6:55pm	Daily
Saipan-Osaka			
OZ 119	4:00am	6:40am	1,4,6
NW 083	4:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
Guam-Osaka			
NW 79	4:45pm	7:35pm	Daily
Saipan-Nagoya			
NW 078	8:20am	11:05am	Daily
Guam-Nagoya			
NW 23	4:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
Saipan-Incheon			
OZ 604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:40am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 119	4:00am	11:25am	1,4,6 via Osaka
OZ 606	3:20pm	7:00pm	Daily
Saipan-Busan			
OZ 608	3:20am	6:50am	1,4,5,7
Saipan-Shanghai			
FM 844	2:50am	5:40am	2,6
Rota-Guam			
CO 9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1,7
Guam-Palau			
CO 953	7:40pm	8:40pm	1,7
CO 893	5:50pm	6:50pm	3,5
Palau-Manila			
CO 893	7:35pm	9:10pm	3,5
Guam-Manila			
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3,5 via Koror
CO 933	8:00pm	9:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:50am	1,2,4,6,7
Nagoya-Manila			
NW 71	8:40pm	11:55pm	Daily
Incheon-Hongkong			
OZ 721	9:20am	12:00pm	Daily
OZ 723	7:45pm	10:35pm	Daily
OZ 7173	8:00pm	10:50pm	5,7
Narita-Manila			
NW 1	7:00pm	10:55pm	Daily

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan			
CO 9598	3:25am	4:00am	5,6
Guam-Saipan			
CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	1,2,3,4,7
CO9598	2:30am	4:00am	5,6 via Rota
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
Narita-Saipan			
NW 076	10:15am	2:40pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:20am+1	2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 100	8:45pm	1:10am+1	Daily
Narita-Guam			
NW 74	9:45am	2:20pm	Daily
NW 82	10:30am	3:10pm	Daily
Osaka-Saipan			
OZ 120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	3,5,7
NW 084	10:40am	3:05pm	Daily
Osaka-Guam			
NW 80	10:30am	3:00pm	Daily
Nagoya-Saipan			
NW 077	9:00pm	1:20am+1	Daily
Nagoya-Guam			
NW 24	10:00am	2:30pm	Daily
Incheon-Saipan			
OZ 605	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ 120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	3,5,7 via Osaka
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6
Busan-Saipan			
OZ 607	9:00pm	2:10am+1	3,4,6,7
Shanghai-Saipan			
FM 843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1,5
Guam-Rota			
CO 9598	2:30am	3:00am	5,6
Palau-Guam			
CO 954	2:30am	5:25am	1,2
CO 892	2:35am	5:30am	4,6
Manila-Palau			
CO 892	10:10pm	1:50am+1	3,5
Manila-Guam			
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3,5 via Koror
CO 934	11:10pm	4:40am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:10pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7
Manila-Nagoya			
NW 72	6:30am	11:05am	Daily
Hongkong-Incheon			
OZ 724	12:30am	4:50am	Daily
OZ 7183	12:45am	5:05am	1,4,6
OZ 722	1:30pm	5:45pm	Daily
Manila-Narita			
NW 2	7:45am	12:40pm	Daily

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Business

Wall Street braces for 2009's first full week

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street will open for trading Monday at a two-month high as investors have grown more optimistic that the worst of the market's rout might be over. But, analysts contend, the real test is still to come.

There will be no shortage of economic data and potential corporate news as traders get back to work after the holidays. The real hope is that the market can build upon Friday's rally, when the Dow Jones industrial average snapped a four-week losing streak and closed above 9,000 for the first time since Nov. 5.

The past month has shown that the negative sentiment about things like corporate earnings and still-sluggish credit markets have already been factored into the market. Analysts say the next few weeks will determine if investors are comfortable enough to return to the market—with their fears of missing out on a rally outweighing concerns of a renewed downturn.

"There's now an estimated $8.9 trillion sitting on the sidelines in cash and money markets," said Stephen Leeb, president of New York-based Leeb Capital Management. "High cash levels and low stock prices historically go hand in hand. The current level as a percentage of the stock market's capitalization matches that at the market bottom in 1990."

He said this huge amount of liquidity "has yet to include the massive amount of money that will be created as a result of the Federal Reserve's recent unprecedented actions to stimulate the economy and financial system." That also could help bolster markets in the coming months.

Leeb and other analysts do not discount that the market may retreat and retest lows seen in November. The next few weeks will go a long way in assessing the market's resiliency, even in the face of abysmal economic news.

LUXURY LURE AP

General Motors' 2010 Cadillac SRX is seen at the automaker's technical center in Warren, Mich., Thursday, Dec. 18, 2008. GM is counting on the crossover vehicle to lure luxury car buyers with new design and performance features.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Madoff victims selling memorabilia on eBay

NEW YORK (AP)—Did you get fleeced by Bernard Madoff? Or did you buy that Madoff Securities fleece jacket on eBay? Madoff, who was arrested last month after allegedly telling investigators he lost as much as $50 billion of investors' money in a giant Ponzi scheme, promoted his firm by putting its name on everything from T-shirts to beach towels, tote bags and umbrellas. Dozens of the keepsakes are now being sold on eBay. Some of the sellers say they're former clients and employees. Others, like John Mitchell, hawked a cigar humidor bearing Madoff's name. "I find these things and then I resell them," Mitchell, of Fox Grove, Ill., said Sunday. He said he bought the humidor from the manufacturer before it ever made it to Madoff's firm. Mitchell said he also sold Lehman Brothers items after the firm declared bankruptcy in September. "People are buying that stuff," he said. "It's sad, but it's still humorous." Other Madoff items for sale on eBay include insulated coolers, binoculars, golf caps and flashlights. Several eBay postings are prodding buyers to "own a piece of history!"

Former newspaper rivals cooperate as jobs are cut

NEW YORK (AP)—Just a dozen years ago, newspapers on either side of Arlington, Texas, fought fiercely for every reader in the fast-growing city, spending millions of dollars to expand their staffs and cover the smallest meetings and sporting events. So it came as a surprise that *The Dallas Morning News* and the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* started sharing photos and concert reviews in November. But these are unprecedented times. As readers and advertisers migrate to the Internet and the stumbling economy cuts deeply into revenues, news organizations are redefining what it means to compete. In recent months, papers around the country have tried to mitigate their staff cuts by forging partnerships with former rivals. "In the old days, all of us were involved in the same stories," said Tony Pederson, a former *Houston Chronicle* executive editor and now journalism chairman at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. "When there was a big news event in Texas or nationwide, everybody was there. Now, that's not the case." The sharing has intensified as newspapers stepped up job reductions and slashed travel budgets, and such arrangements are more palatable than closing news bureaus or dropping some coverage areas altogether.

Hoyer: Stimulus unlikely before inauguration

WASHINGTON (AP)—Congressional Democrats said Sunday that President-elect Barack Obama probably will have to wait until next month before getting the chance to sign an economic aid bill his team once hoped would be on his desk by his swearing-in Jan. 20.

"It's going to be very difficult to get the package put together that early," House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer of Maryland said. "But we certainly want to see this package passed through the House of Representatives no later than the end of this month, get it over to the Senate, and have it to the president before we break" in mid-February.

Hoyer

Obama planned to meet with Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., on Monday to talk about enacting a massive spending plan. The president-elect also scheduled a separate meeting with the entire Democratic and Republican leadership teams.

Reid said they will do their "very very best" to get a package finished as soon as possible, but he was unwilling to set an artificial deadline for completion.

"We're going to get it done as quickly as we can," Reid said.

Added Hoyer: "We're going to move as quickly as possible, given our responsibilities to make sure that we're passing a package that will work."

Obama said Congress should pass a plan designed to create 3 million jobs. The Democratic president-elect hasn't announced a final price for it, but aides said the cost could be as high as $775 billion.

Cannoles to head BoH Pacific Islands Division

Jim Polk returning to Honolulu to assume expanded role

Bank of Hawaii

HONOLULU, Hawaii—Ronald E. Cannoles has been promoted to executive vice president and manager of Bank of Hawaii's Pacific Islands Division, which includes Guam, Saipan, Palau, and American Samoa.

Cannoles, who was senior vice president and manager of retail and operations, is responsible for leading and managing the overall financial performance of Pacific Islands Division's various lines of business and market locations.

He succeeds James C. Polk, who will be returning to Honolulu to assume expanded responsibilities in the bank's Commercial Banking Group. Effective, Jan. 19, Polk will oversee Corporate Banking, Large Ticket and Leverage Leasing, Dealer Flooring and Dealer Indirect, and the Hawaii Commercial Banking Centers. Polk was promoted to executive vice president and Pacific Islands Division Manager in 2006.

Cannoles joined Bank of Hawaii in 1986 as a management trainee. During his tenure at the bank, he has served in a number of positions including managing director for the National Bank of Solomon Islands and deputy general manager for Bank of Tonga. He has also served as vice president and special assets officer for the Pacific Islands Division in Guam. He joined the Pacific Islands Division in 2007 as Retail and Operations Manager.

Cannoles

A graduate of the University of Hawaii in Hilo, Cannoles holds a bachelor's degree with honors in business administration. He also earned a diploma from the McIntyre School of Business' Graduate School of Retail Bank Management in Charlottesville, Va.

Cannoles is a member of the Guam Chamber of Commerce.

Bank of Hawaii also announced the promotion of Erlinda D. Alegre to senior vice president from vice president. She will succeed Cannoles as Pacific Islands Division Retail & Operations Manager. Previously, she served as the Compliance and Operations Manager of West Pacific Operations and Support.

Alegre joined Bank of Hawaii in 1994 as a service assistant and has continuously been promoted to various positions including operations analyst and operations manager.

Senior Vice President John Sheather of Saipan has been appointed to Deputy Division Manager from Pacific Islands Division Regional Manager. He is responsible for the management of banking operations in the CNMI, Palau, and American Samoa markets. ***(PR)***

Hardt Eye's Mahinay and Zapata get certified

Hardt Eye Clinic announced that Eric Mahinay and Amor Zapata passed the National Opticianry Competency Examination and are now certified opticians. They are the first U.S. certified opticians ever in the CNMI.

Mahinay, who has college degrees in engineering and theology, has been a part of the Hardt Eye Clinic family since 2004.

"Assisting patients in choosing the right frames and lenses to match their lifestyle is real important part for me," said Mahinay.

He also viewed his accomplishment as motivation to "learn more and serve better."

Dr. Don Hardt said he is proud of his staff's recent accomplishment.

"We are so proud of Eric and Amor, first for the fine care they provide, and second for this major achievement," he said.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Amor Zapata, left, and Eric Mahinay proudly pose with their certifications after passing the National Opticianry Competency Examination.

Zapata, also an LPN, has been with Hardt Eye Clinic since June of 2007. He said he still remembers the countless hours of studying and preparation for his examination, reflecting that he is proud that he received such designation.

"I'm happy that I can help others. Seeing our patients smile is an indescribable feeling," he said.

Hardt Eye Clinic first opened its doors in 2004 and remains committed to providing the highest standards of care for their patients. The certification by the ABOC of Zapata and Mahinay supports the overall mission of Hardt Eye Clinic to exceed patient expectations in all areas of service.

The American Board of Opticianry is a national non-profit organization that works with organizations that dispense and work with eyeglasses.

To schedule an appointment please call 235-2030 or stop by the clinic on Beach Road, Garapan, next to Megabyte. ***(PR)***

Nation

Obama bids Midwest goodbye, lands in Washington

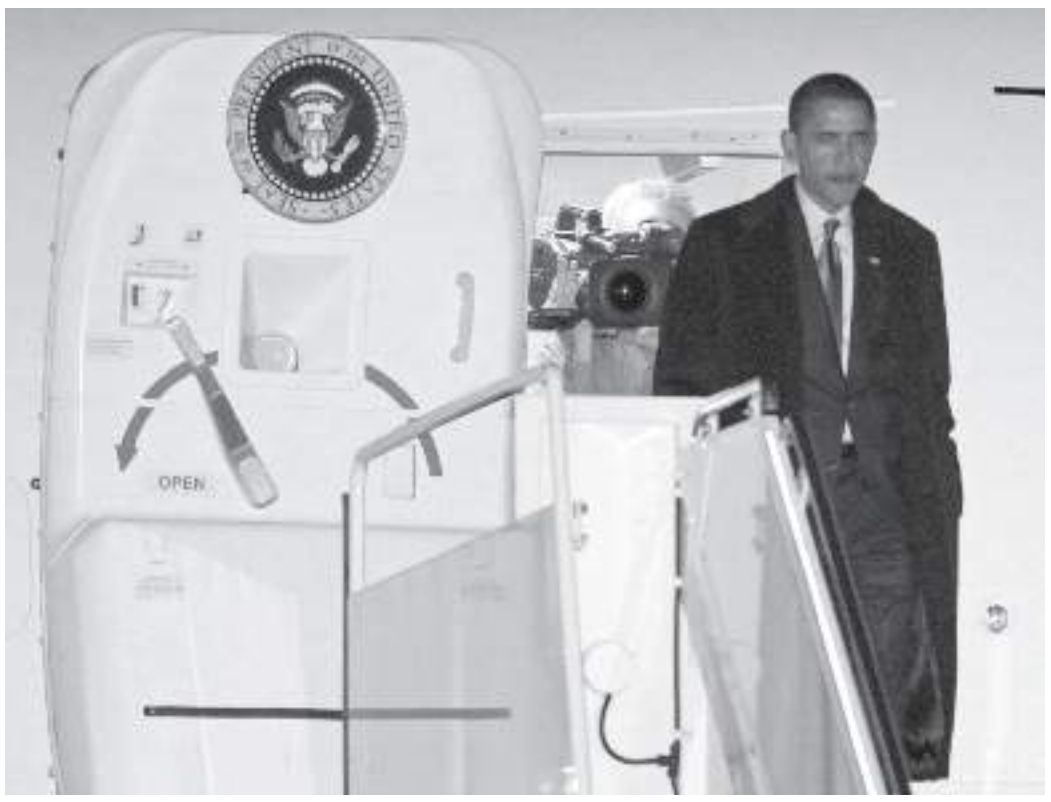
WASHINGTON (AP)—President-elect Barack Obama rejoined his family in Washington on Sunday evening after bidding a poignant farewell to his Chicago home as he begins final preparations for his Jan. 20 inauguration.

"I've got to tell you, I choked up a little bit leaving my house today," Obama told reporters aboard a government 757 plane typically used by vice presidents and first ladies. It was his first trip on a government aircraft since winning election Nov. 4.

Obama said pictures of his daughter, 10-year-old Malia, and her friends triggered the emotion as he left his Hyde Park home in Chicago.

"Malia's friend had dropped off an album of the two of them. They've been friends since preschool. I just looked through the pages, the house was empty. It was a little tough," Obama said.

Asked if he was looking forward to arriving in Washington, Obama smiled and said yes, "although living in a hotel for two weeks? We did that for two years."



AP

President-elect Barack Obama leaves the plane after his arrival at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., Sunday, Jan. 4, 2009.

The president-elect is staying at the Hay-Adams Hotel across from the White House. His wife and two young daughters made the same trip from Chicago on Saturday.

Obama has a busy week ahead of him. On Monday, after his girls leave for their first day of classes at the private Sidwell Friends School, he has a meeting planned with Democratic and Republican leaders to discuss the stimulus plan aimed at jolting the economy out of the worst recession since the Great Depression. On Wednesday, he's scheduled to attend lunch at the White House with former presidents.

Obama arrived in Washington just hours after his pick for commerce secretary, New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, took his name out of the running amid a federal grand jury investigation into government contracts.

In addition to finding a replacement for Richardson, Obama also has some other high-profile members of his administration to name, including a director of national intelligence and a CIA director. Robert Gibbs, Obama's top spokesman, told reporters he anticipated those posts to be named soon.

Confirmation hearings for other members of his Cabinet are scheduled in the coming days.

The Obamas will live at the Hay-Adams until the White House's guest quarters at Blair House, across Pennsylvania Avenue, are available Jan. 15.

Opened in 1928, the Hay-Adams Hotel sits across Lafayette Square from the White House. Its name comes from two historical figures who lived on the site: John Hay, the private assistant to President Abraham Lincoln and later secretary of state, and Henry Adams, an author and descendant of Presidents John Adams and John Quincy Adams.

Supporters rally behind Blagojevich pick, Burris

CHICAGO (AP)—Just days before a high-stakes showdown in the nation's capital, the man selected to take President-elect Barack Obama's vacated U.S. Senate seat sought spiritual and political support on Sunday at a South Side Chicago church.

Warm words of support and prayers for Roland Burris contrasted with the frigid reactions from Senate leaders, many of whom say his appointment by embattled Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich is so badly stained that Burris shouldn't be seated when the new Congress convenes this week.

Burris took the stage at New Covenant Church on Sunday evening to a crescendo of drums, organ music and applause from hundreds of supporters, including black leaders and ministers.

"The appointment is legal," he said, thanking those gathered at the prayer service. "That is all there is. I don't know what all the confusion is about."

Before the service, Burris supporter U.S. Rep. Bobby Rush and about 60 ministers condemned Senate Democratic leaders for rejecting Burris.

Rush, a Chicago Democrat, called the Senate "the last bastion of plantation politics."

"We are just faced with a hard-headed room of people in the Senate who want to keep an African-American out of the Senate," Rush said.

The Senate's top two Democrats defended their right to deny the seat to Burris, while refusing to rule out a deal as Congress and its new members begin work this week.

Democrats say Burris' appointment is tainted because it was made by Blagojevich, who is accused by federal authorities of offering to sell the vacancy to the highest bidder. Burris, a former state attorney general, says the appointment is legal and the governor had the authority to do it. He has threatened to sue Senate Democrats if they refuse to swear him in as the chamber's only black member.

"Anything can happen," said Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev. But he described the chances of Burris joining the Senate as "very difficult."

The second-ranking Democrat, Illinois Sen. Dick Durbin, acknowledged that his governor has the state constitutional authority to fill the vacancy. "The Senate of the United States has the U.S. constitutional responsibility to decide if Mr. Burris was chosen in a proper manner and that is what we're going to do," Durbin said.

Richardson drops bid for commerce secretary post

WASHINGTON (AP)—New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson on Sunday announced that he was withdrawing his nomination to be President-elect Barack Obama's commerce secretary amid a grand jury investigation into how some of his political donors won a lucrative state contract.

Richardson's withdrawal was the first disruption of Obama's Cabinet process and the second "pay-to-play" investigation that has touched Obama's transition to the presidency. The president-elect has remained above the fray in both the case of arrested Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich and the New Mexico case.

A federal grand jury is investigating how a California company that contributed to Richardson's political activities won a New Mexico transportation contract worth more than $1 million. Richardson said in a statement issued by the Obama transition office that the investigation could take weeks or months but expressed confidence it will show he and his administration acted properly.

A senior Obama adviser said that when Richardson was nominated, he gave assurances that he would come out fine in the investigation and the president-elect had no reason to doubt it. But as the grand jury continued to pursue the case, it became clear that confirmation hearings would have to be delayed for six weeks or even longer until the investigation was complete, said the adviser, speaking on condition of anonymity about the discussions because they were private.

ACROSS THE NATION

Helicopter crash kills 8, injures 1 in Louisiana

HOUMA, La. (AP)—Eight people were killed and a ninth was reported critically injured after a helicopter bound for the offshore oil fields crashed Sunday afternoon in marshlands about 100 miles southwest of New Orleans. The helicopter, operated by PHI Inc., crashed about 3:30 p.m. shortly after taking off from PHI's base in Amelia, said Richard Rovinelli, a spokesman for the company. The cause of the crash isn't clear. Rovinelli did not know the type of helicopter or its exact destination. He said the helicopter was carrying two pilots and seven passengers. Identities of the victims have not yet been released. The National Transportation Safety Board has been advised of the crash and investigators were expected to arrive Monday, Rovinelli said. Petty Officer Jaclyn Young said the Coast Guard assisted Terrebonne Parish sheriff's deputies in searching for and recovering the bodies of the dead and rescuing the survivor from the marshy Bayou Penchant area. A spokesman for the sheriff's office could not be reached for comment.

12-year-old Arizona boy guilty in mom's shooting

SIERRA VISTA, Ariz. (AP)—A 12-year-old boy who fatally shot his mother after an argument over his chores was found guilty of premeditated murder. Judge James Conlogue found the boy guilty after a hearing Friday in Cochise County Superior Court in the southern Arizona town of Bisbee. The boy is not being identified because he was charged as a juvenile. Conlogue ruled that prosecutors had proved the boy acted intentionally and with premeditation when he shot Sara Madrid, 34, eight times on Aug. 1. The shooting happened after the boy had argued with his mother over his chores. Madrid had left the family home after the argument, and the boy got a .22-caliber pistol from her bedroom closet, waited for her to return and then repeatedly shot her, according to court testimony. Madrid's live-in boyfriend of 10 years, Alfonso Munoz, witnessed the shooting and said the boy gave him the empty gun afterward. Munoz, who helped raise the boy, said he had taught the child how to use the weapon for emergencies and self-defense. The boy's lawyer, Sanford Edleman, had argued that the boy did not intend to kill his mother but only wanted to get back at her for abusing him. Police said the boy told them his mother yelled at him and slapped him.

Abandoned toddler leads Ohio police to slain mom

DAYTON, Ohio (AP)—Authorities were searching for the gunman who killed a woman at her home and then abandoned her 4-year-old son at a highway rest stop. A Maryland couple found the boy on Friday, wandering around a rest area along Interstate 70 in central Ohio. The travelers, Mike and Judith McConnell, said Sunday on NBC's "Today" that the boy told them a strange man had entered his home in Dayton without knocking and shot his mother. Police later found the boy's mother, Jennifer Nelson, 29, dead in her home. The McConnells, who took the child into their warm vehicle and contacted authorities, said the boy was able to provide clear details about his home address and parents' names. "I began asking him questions, and he told me that a stranger had come into his house without knocking," Mike McConnell said via satellite from Baltimore. "And I said 'Well, where was your mommy?' And he said 'He shot my mommy.'" Two computers were stolen from the home.

Virginia Gov. Kaine to take over as DNC chairman

WASHINGTON (AP)—Virginia Gov. Tim Kaine is set to become the next chairman of the Democratic Party. Two Democratic officials said Sunday that President-elect Barack Obama has chosen the governor to take over the Democratic National Committee.

The officials spoke to The Associated Press on a condition of anonymity because the decision had not yet been officially announced.

Kaine plans to work at the party part-time until 2010, when his term as governor is up and he can take over the DNC full-time.

Current DNC chairman Howard Dean plans to step down Jan. 21, the day after Obama's inauguration.

Obama has also chosen Jennifer O'Malley Dillon, who directed his successful campaign battleground state strategy, to run day-to-day operations at the party as executive director.

With Democrats controlling the White House and Congress, the new DNC chairman will be responsible for reinforcing the White House message, preparing for the 2010 midterm elections and raising money.

The Republican National Committee is meeting this week, in part to discuss who will take over for departing chairman Mike Duncan.

Asia

Series of quakes hit eastern Indonesia, killing 1

AP

Residents inspect a collapsed hotel after an earthquake struck in Manokwari, Papua province, Indonesia, Sunday, Jan. 4, 2009.

MANOKWARI, Indonesia (AP)—A series of powerful earthquakes killed a 10-year-old girl and injured dozens in remote eastern Indonesia, briefly triggering fears of another tsunami in a country still recovering from 2004's deadly waves.

One of the quakes—a 7.3-magnitude tremor—was felt as far away as Australia and sent small tsunamis into Japan's southeastern coast.

Residents near the epicenter in Papua province rushed from their homes in search of higher ground shortly after the first 7.6-magnitude quake struck at 4:43 a.m. local time (1943 GMT), afraid that huge waves might wash over the island.

The epicenter was about 85 miles (135 kilometers) from Papua's main city of Manokwari and occurred at a depth of 22 miles (35 kilometers), the U.S. Geological Survey said. It was followed by dozens of aftershocks.

Dozens were injured and some 135 homes and other buildings were badly damaged or toppled in the province. Officials initially reported four deaths, but later discovered three people had died from illnesses.

The 10-year-old girl was killed in her home when a wall collapsed, said hospital director Hengky Tewu. "Her head was crushed," he said.

Power lines fell, cutting off electricity, and the runway of Manokwari's Rendani airport was cracked, prompting the cancellation of commercial flights.

The government initially issued a tsunami warning but lifted it within an hour after it was confirmed that the epicenter was on land, not water.

Quakes centered onshore pose little tsunami threat to Indonesia itself, but those close to the coast can churn up large waves that sometimes reach the coastlines of other countries such as Japan.

Japan reported tsunamis between 4 inches (10 centimeters) and 16 inches (40 centimeters) high hitting its shores following the temblors.

ASIAN BRIEFS

India gives Pakistan evidence over Mumbai attacks

NEW DELHI (AP)—India's foreign ministry says authorities have handed over evidence to Pakistan linking the deadly Mumbai attacks to Pakistani "elements." India has blamed the November attacks that killed 164 people on Pakistani-based militants, but Pakistan has denied the accusations saying India had yet to provide definitive proof. An official statement says Foreign Secretary Shivshankar Menon has given evidence to the Pakistani High Commissioner in New Delhi on Monday that links the attacks to "elements in Pakistan." The evidence included material from the interrogation of the lone surviving gunman, details of conversations between the gunmen and their alleged handlers in Pakistan, recovered weapons, and data satellite phones.

Police: Suicide attack kills 7 in Pakistan

DERA ISMAIL KHAN, Pakistan (AP)—A suicide bomber attacked police in northwest Pakistan as they rushed to treat civilians injured by an earlier explosion, killing seven people and wounding at least 25 others, said a police official. The bomber attacked police Sunday while they were investigating a minor blast in the town of Dera Ismail Khan near the Afghan border, said Sanaullah Khan. Five police officials and two civilians were killed by the second blast and 16 police were among the wounded, Khan said. Amanullah Khan, a wounded police official, said he and his colleagues were attending to four civilians injured by the first explosion when the bomber attacked. "When I stood up, there was blood everywhere," said Khan. "My colleagues were crying with pain." Local television showed smoldering bicycles, broken furniture and torn police uniforms splattered with blood littering the ground in front of shops destroyed in the attack. The footage also showed a police van damaged by the blast.

Sri Lanka pushes ahead with war on rebels

KILINOCHCHI, Sri Lanka (AP)—Battle tanks rumbled north, attack helicopters flew overheard and artillery fire roared through the jungles as Sri Lankan forces pushed ahead Sunday with an offensive aimed at capturing the Tamil Tigers' last strongholds and crushing the rebel group. A rebel-affiliated Web site reported that the insurgents stalled a military advance on the road to its northeastern stronghold of Mullaittivu killing 43 soldiers and wounding 80 others Sunday, two days after the military seized the rebels' administrative capital of Kilinochchi. The government led a victory tour of the newly seized areas in the north, providing journalists a rare glimpse of the war zone and the damage left behind. The army was using Paranthan Junction, a strategic crossroads the military captured Thursday, as a staging area to send troops into the fight for two of the biggest prizes remaining in the battle, the rebel-held areas of Elephant Pass to the north and Mullaittivu to the east.

2 dead, dozens missing in Nepal boat accident

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)—An overcrowded boat carrying mostly women and children capsized in a river in eastern Nepal on Sunday, killing two people and leaving dozens missing. More than 50 people were believed on board the boat and only 14 were rescued from the Saptakosi river, about 250 miles (400 kilometers) southeast of the capital Katmandu, government official Durga Bhandari said. Bhandari said two bodies were pulled from the water. Police and local fishermen were searching for survivors but fog and cold weather was making their work difficult, Bhandari said. Most of the people on the boat were women and children, said Bhandari.

Samurai archery, an ancient sport, still thrives

AP

An archer shoots an arrow toward a target on a galloping horse during an annual "Yabusame," or horseback archery festival, in Zushi, southwest of Tokyo on Sunday, Nov. 16, 2008.

ZUSHI, Japan (AP)—It is about as far from the Olympic sport of archery as it can get. The bow is taller than the person shooting it, and, to the uninitiated, it appears lopsided and unbalanced. There are no sights, no high-tech stabilizers.

And, of course, it is done on horseback, at upward of 40 mph.

It's called yabusame, and it is the sport of the samurai.

Each year, archers in feudal shooting gear climb atop their decorated mounts for a lively competition on the beach of Zushi, a town just south of Tokyo, galloping in the sand as thousands of onlookers cheer and shout. The first competition was held here in 1199.

The scene is like something out of a movie by the great Akira Kurosawa. Banners flap in the ocean wind marking the beginning and end of the shooting runway. Little boys in bright robes and black hats scamper about collecting the arrows and the debris from the wooden or clay targets destroyed by each hit.

"There is nothing like this outside of Japan," said Ietaka Kaneko, who heads the Japan Equestrian Archery Association and the Takeda School of Horseback Archery, which traces its origins back more than 800 years.

The targets, held about seven feet aloft on small poles or scaffoldings, are roughly the size of a mounted opponent's chest. There are three along the runway, which is only 165 yards long, giving the archer just enough time to raise his bow, load and shoot—three times—all the while spurring on his horse.

SKorea's opposition party sues parliament speaker

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea's main opposition party filed a criminal lawsuit Sunday against the country's parliament speaker and police chief over a scuffle that left about 100 party members and security guards injured.

About 150 parliamentary security guards tried Saturday to clear opposition lawmakers who have been staging a sit-in inside the National Assembly to thwart President Lee Myung-bak's party from ramming through scores of bills including a free trade deal with the U.S.

The guards—acting on Assembly Speaker Kim Hyong-o's instructions to "keep order"—frog-marched some of the Democratic Party lawmakers and their aides, who fiercely fought back. The shoving match left some 50 people on each side injured.

On Sunday, the Democratic Party filed a criminal lawsuit with prosecutors against Assembly Speaker Kim, police chief Eo Cheong-soo and two other parliamentary officials, accusing them of abuse of their power.

"(Kim's) right to keep order ... doesn't include the rights to exercise physical force," the party said in a statement.

The party accused Eo of deploying about additional 900 police officers outside the parliamentary building without going through the necessary procedures. The party says Eo needed approval from a parliamentary committee before deploying officers inside the parliamentary complex.

Thai police to charge club owner over deadly fire

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)—The owner of a Thai nightclub where at least 62 revelers perished in a New Year's Eve fire will face criminal charges over the blaze, which was likely sparked by a countdown fireworks display on the stage of the jammed nightspot, police said Sunday. Wisuth Setsawat, a Thai-Chinese businessman, broke down in tears as he offered apologies to relatives of the victims Sunday before being questioned by police over the disaster at his Santika Club.

The fire raced through the two-story building with victims succumbing to the blaze, smoke inhalation and injuries from a stampede as hundreds of revelers tried to escape through a single main door.

Police Gen. Jongrak Jutanont said Sunday that Wisuth would be charged with carelessness leading to the deaths of others. He has already been charged with allowing in an underage customer, a 17-year-old high school student who was among the dead.

World

Israeli troops and tanks slice deep into Gaza

AP

Explosions from Israeli fire are seen over the northern Gaza Strip, as seen from the Israel side of the border, Sunday, Jan. 4, 2009.

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)—Thousands of Israeli troops backed by tanks and helicopter gunships surrounded Gaza's largest city and fought militants at close range Sunday, the first full day of an overwhelming ground offensive in the coastal territory.

Israel said it has inflicted a heavy blow against Hamas as it expands a weeklong offensive meant to stop rocket fire on southern Israel. But spiraling civilian casualties among Palestinians fueled an international outcry, even as the U.S. blocked approval of a U.N. Security Council statement Saturday night calling for an immediate cease-fire.

Israel's ground forces moved in after nightfall Saturday following hours of intense, fiery artillery shelling to clear the way, and Hamas warned that its fighters would turn Gaza into an Israeli "graveyard."

On Sunday, Israeli soldiers fought primarily in open areas in the launching zones used by Gaza's militants to send rockets raining down on Israeli cities. As the troops in three brigade-size formations moved in, residents of those Israeli cities began cautiously emerging from bomb shelters in hopes that the rocket fire would taper off.

Backing up the troops, mobile artillery units fired shells that exploded in veils of white smoke over Gaza's urban skyline. Tanks pushed south of Gaza City as deep as the abandoned settlement of Netzarim, which Israel left along with other communities when it pulled out of Gaza in 2005.

That effectively cut off Gaza City, the territory's largest population center with some 400,000 residents, from the rest of Gaza to the south.

Israel's military chief said Hamas fighters were trying to draw soldiers deeper into Gaza's sprawling, densely packed urban areas, where the military said militants were shielding themselves behind civilians.

"You entered like rats," Hamas spokesman Ismail Radwan told Israeli soldiers in a statement on Hamas' Al Aqsa TV. "Gaza will be a graveyard for you, God willing," he said.

Israeli forces have not yet entered urban areas, said Brig. Gen. Avi Benayahu, the chief army spokesman. He warned, however, that the operation was not a "school trip" and would be long and demanding.

The ground invasion risks turning into intense urban combat, with house-to-house fighting, sniper fire and booby-traps. Hamas is believed to have some 20,000 gunmen and has had time to prepare.

To guard against hidden explosives, Israel's ground forces moved through fields and orchards with bomb-sniffing dogs.

Since the ground assault began, 64 Palestinian civilians have been killed, said Dr. Moaiya Hassanain, a Health Ministry official. The new deaths brought the death toll in the Gaza Strip to more than 512 since Dec. 27. The tally is based on figures from the U.N. and Palestinian health officials as well as a count by The Associated Press.

Five Israelis have been killed since the offensive began. One soldier has been killed in the ground operation and about 40 were wounded, some of them in heavy exchanges of fire near the militant stronghold of Jebaliya, a town on Gaza City's northern outskirts, the army said. Heavy Israeli casualties could undermine what has so far been overwhelming public support for the operation.

Thousands in Lebanon, Turkey protest Gaza attack

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP)—Thousands protesting Israel's ground offensive on Gaza converged Sunday in Beirut and the Turkish capital, as the leaders of the only two Mideast Arab nations to sign peace treaties with Israel demanded an end to the attack.

In Yemen, security officials said anti-Israel protesters attacked several Jewish homes in the northern province of Omran, smashing windows and pelting them with rocks. The officials, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media, said at least one Jewish resident was injured among the tiny minority community.

Lebanese police used water hoses to try to push about 250 demonstrators away from the U.S. Embassy in Lebanon's capital. When that failed, they fired tear gas, Lebanese security officials said. A second Beirut protest—a sit-in outside the U.N. building—drew thousands of supporters of Hamas and Lebanon's Islamic Group.

In Turkey, more than 5,000 people held an anti-Israel rally in Istanbul, waving Palestinian flags and burning effigies of Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and President George W. Bush. Also in Istanbul, club-wielding police broke up a small demonstration by protesters who hurled eggs at the Israeli Consulate, the private Dogan news agency reported. There were no reports of arrests or injuries.

In Morocco, tens of thousands gathered in the capital Rabat for a peaceful march to protest the Gaza offensive. Police estimated the turnout at 50,000, according to the official MAP news agency. Organizers said the number was bigger, but did not give a precise figure.

Israel's weeklong aerial bombardment of Gaza and the start of the ground offensive Saturday against Hamas have drawn condemnation across the Muslim and Arab world and news coverage of the invasion has dominated Arab satellite television stations.

Thousands in cities from Tehran to Damascus have also taken to the streets to protest the attacks, which have killed about 500 Palestinians and wounded more than 1,600, according to Gaza officials.

Female bomber at Shiite shrine in Baghdad kills 38

BAGHDAD (AP)—A woman hiding among Iranian pilgrims with a bomb strapped under her black robe killed more than three dozen people Sunday outside a Baghdad mosque during ceremonies commemorating the death of one of Shiite Islam's most revered saints.

The suicide attack, the most recent in a series that has killed more than 60 people in less that a week, was the latest to mar the transfer of many security responsibilities from the U.S. military to Iraqi forces.

Iraqi security forces have deployed thousands of troops in Baghdad and in the Shiite holy city of Karbala, just south of the capital, to safeguard against attacks during the ceremonies. Attacks by al-Qaida in Iraq, Sunni insurgents and even a Shiite cult have killed hundreds of people in recent years.

The attack in Baghdad's northern Shiite neighborhood of Kazimiyah, which wounded at least 72 people, comes two days after a suicide bomber slipped into a luncheon at a tribal leader's home south of Baghdad and killed at least 23 people. More than a dozen other people have died in other attacks since New Year's Day.

Darfur peace push slowed by splits among rebels

NYALA, Sudan (AP)—International mediators pushing for new negotiations on Darfur are being hampered by divisions among Darfur's rebels and by some rebels' hopes that genocide charges will bring down Sudan's president.

The ethnic African rebels, who rose up against the Arab-dominated Khartoum government six years ago, have never been united. But over the past year, factions have multiplied—up to 30 now by U.N. estimates, divided on tribal, political or personal lines.

Some faction leaders are not communicating with their commanders, and the U.N., African and Arab mediators have complained they sometimes don't know whom to talk to.

Now there are fears the conflict could spread beyond Darfur. Sudan's government has sent forces into neighboring South Kordofan province, claiming Darfur rebels are operating there, and the Justice and Equality Movement, the strongest Darfur rebel faction, has announced a military alliance with armed groups in Kordofan.

Meanwhile, the U.N. and African Union's point man on Darfur has spent the past two months meeting with rebel factions in Darfur and abroad. The Persian Gulf state of Qatar is supposed to host a gathering of rebels and Khartoum officials, but Sudanese Foreign Ministry spokesman Ali Sadiq said Friday that some rebel factions were refusing and no meeting date has been set.

Qatar "does not want to leave any loophole" by not having all rebels involved, Sadiq told The Associated Press. Another meeting for Arab and African mediators scheduled in Qatar on Monday has been indefinitely postponed.

WORLD BRIEFS

Shooting attack injures Greek policeman

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—At least one gunman opened fire on riot police in Athens on Monday, seriously wounding an officer a month after police fatally shot a teenager, sparking Greece's worst riots in decades. The pre-dawn attack was aimed at a riot police unit stationed outside the Culture Ministry in the center of the capital, police spokesman Panagiotis Stathis said. The officer was being treated for two gunshot wounds and was undergoing surgery in a central Athens hospital, Panos Efstathiou, head of the Health Ministry's operations center, said on state television. The attack comes nearly two weeks after gunmen opened fire with two automatic rifles on a riot police bus as it passed by a university campus outside the city center on Dec. 23. None of the approximately 20 officers on board the bus were injured in that attack. Police frequently came under attack from youths throwing gasoline bombs during two weeks of riots sparked by the Dec. 6 death of 15-year-old Alexandros Grigoropoulos in a police shooting in the often volatile Exarchia district. Youths have also attacked police stations with gasoline bombs.

Accused 9/11 plotter Mohammed faces a French trial

PARIS (AP)—The self-described mastermind of the Sept. 11 attacks goes on trial in absentia in France on Monday for allegedly ordering a deadly Tunisian synagogue bombing less than a year after the assault on New York and Washington. The proceedings in Paris are expected to highlight the reach and complexity of al-Qaida-linked networks in North Africa, although they are unlikely to directly affect the fate of Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, who is being held by the U.S. at Guantanamo Bay. Also on trial in France are Christian Ganczarski, a German who converted to Islam, and Walid Naouar, the brother of the suicide bomber who drove a propane-laden truck into an ancient synagogue on the island of Djerba on April 11, 2002, killing 21 people. Ganczarski and Walid Naouar are charged with complicity in the murders and complicity in attempted murder in the synagogue attack and face life sentences if convicted in the Paris trial, which is expected to last until Feb. 6. French investigators say bomber Nizar Naouar, 24, called Mohammed by satellite telephone in Pakistan and received the order to attack on the day of the bombing.

Overdrive

2009 MERCURY MARINER PREMIER

Fuel-sipping compact doesn't quite cut it in snow

By WARREN BROWN
THE WASHINGTON POST

CORNWALL, N.Y.—Style points count for little here in the snow. The only vehicles that matter are those with four-wheel drive or, at least, all-wheel drive—a system that automatically transfers drive power from slipping to gripping wheels.

Forget those "all-season" radial tires. They'll satisfy flatlanders who think snow flurries are blizzards. When winter comes roaring through the Hudson Highlands, the mountains on either side of the Hudson River that shape this place, all-season rubber turns next to useless.

Get proper snow tires. They're not the most attractive pieces of rubber you can put on a car or a truck. But they'll keep you moving around here.

Also, while it's good to be green, here in the winter, it's much better to have horsepower to crawl up treacherous hills towing loads or, maybe, to help pull a neighbor out of a ditch.

I write these things, dear readers, by way of confession. I have discovered the meaning of humility. It happens when ego is broadsided by truth. In my case, I got slapped upside the head.

Many of you are familiar with my wife, Mary Anne, and my *Washington Post* associate for vehicle evaluations, Ria Manglapus. In matters vehicular, they are queens of common sense. But I sometimes find it difficult to listen to them. I should have listened this time.

Before setting off for these parts from Northern Virginia, Ria warned me that I was taking the wrong vehicle—this week's subject, the front-wheel-drive, 171-horsepower inline four-cylinder version of the 2009 Mercury Mariner Premier compact sport-utility.

THE WASHINGTON POST

The 2009 Mercury Mariner Premier is a compact sport-utility vehicle that is great for use as a flatlands commuter wagon.

"You've got to beg that little engine to accelerate," Ria said. "It moves under protest."

But I suspected that Ria had gone over to the dark side. I had seen it happening bit by bit, every time she got behind the wheel of a high-performance car. When she returned to something as normal as this week's test vehicle, she smirked, said it was "OK, I guess" and muttered something like it "doesn't move so fast."

But I was determined to see if the Mercury Premier with front-wheel drive and the four-cylinder engine actually could get 28 miles per gallon on the highway. That would be better than the comparably equipped Honda CR-V (23 mpg), Hyundai Santa Fe (24 mpg) and Toyota Rav-4 (24 mpg). That would be worth noting. Besides, this Mariner came with the voice-activated Microsoft Sync infotainment system and with one of the prettiest interiors—leather and Alcantara-covered seats—in anybody's SUV.

"I assume," said Mary Anne, "that this is a four-wheel-drive vehicle." She was speaking as we were boarding the Mariner Premier for our drive up here.

I told her we'd be fine. "We don't need four-wheel drive," I boasted. "That stuff's just a lot of marketing hype. This one has front-wheel drive and traction control. That's all we need."

Mary Anne's cell phone rang. It was our daughter, Binta, calling from her home here.

"Uh-huh," said Mary Anne. "There's snow and ice? Can we get up Mine Hill Road?" she asked, referring to a street leading to our daughter's home. And then there was this: "Dad says we don't need four-wheel drive. He says this one is more fuel-efficient."

Dear readers, must I really tell you the rest of this story? We slipped. We slid. We wiggled our way up hills and sometimes got stuck. We crept along icy byways at slower than a snail's pace. On flat, high-speed stretches before we ran into the snow, we tried to accelerate, only for the Mariner Premier's little engine to buzz and hum and whine at high pitch.

Mary Anne could not allow that cacophony to escape without comment.

"This engine is so noisy, it could be a rock band," she said.

NUTS & BOLTS

BY WARREN BROWN
THE WASHINGTON POST

COMPLAINTS

This structural and mechanical twin of the Ford Escape uses disc brakes up front and outmoded drum brakes in the rear, same as the Escape. Here's hoping that Ford carries through with rumored plans to install the more-effective disc brakes at all four corners of successor vehicles.

RIDE, ACCELERATION AND HANDLING

The front-wheel-drive, four-cylinder Mariner Premier is great for use as a flatlands commuter wagon. But keep it off wintry mountain roads.

HEAD-TURNING QUOTIENT:

It is pleasant in the way of the familiar, which is another way of saying that the Mariner has been around for nine years and is in need of a remake.

BODY STYLE/LAYOUT:

The Mercury Mariner is a compact, front-engine sport-utility vehicle available with front-wheel drive or all-wheel drive. Go with front-wheel drive for best fuel economy and all-wheel drive for best traction. Choose the four-cylinder model for more miles per gallon and the V-6 for hauling power.

ENGINE/TRANSMISSION

The 2.5-liter, inline four-cylinder engine develops 171 horsepower at 6,000 revolutions per minute and 171 foot-pounds of torque at 4,500 rpm.

Capacities: There are seats for five people. Cargo capacity with rear seats up is 29.2 cubic feet; with rear seats down, it's 62 cubic feet. The fuel tank holds 16.5 gallons of regular unleaded gasoline.

MILEAGE

The four-cylinder, front-wheel-drive Mariner Premier delivers 28 miles per gallon on long highway runs. We got 18 mpg in city traffic.

Safety: Standard equipment includes side and head air bags and electronic stability and traction control.

PRICE

The base price of the 2009 Mercury Mariner Premier with front-wheel drive and an inline four-cylinder engine is $24,765. Dealer's invoice price on that model I is $23,006. Price as tested is $30,110, including $4,620 in options (voice-activated Microsoft Sync system with onboard navigation and backup camera, dual-zone climate control and 17-inch diameter wheels) and a $725 destination charge. Dealer's price as tested is $27,660. Prices were sourced from Ford, Edmunds.com and Cars.com, an affiliate of *The Washington Post*.

Cadillac unveils sleeker SRX before Detroit show

DETROIT (AP)—General Motors Corp. is counting on the 2010 Cadillac SRX crossover vehicle to lure luxury car buyers with new design and performance features.

The redesigned vehicle was unveiled Sunday and is set to go on display at the 2009 North American International Auto Show in Detroit later this month. It replaces the SRX model first launched in 2004.

To help compete with better-selling rivals like the Lexus RX, Acura MDX, and the BMW X3 and X5, the SRX's designers took elements from other Cadillac models and melded them into this one. The new SRX looks faster than its boxy predecessor, with a curving roofline and a more rounded nose that still retains an aggressive look.

"For GM, it's our most aggressive brand," said Clay Dean, GM's global director for Cadillac design. "We want to appeal to people that set the trends."

Cadillac put more energy into improving the interior quality and exterior design of the car, Dean said. A 3-liter direct-injection V-6 engine comes standard, with the option for a 2.8-liter turbocharged V-6. Although fuel economy testing wasn't complete, GM estimates highway miles per gallon will fall in the mid-20s.

Cadillac has a strong following among luxury car buyers, and the brand remains an important one for GM.

Cadillac sales fell 24 percent in the first 11 months of 2008, about on par with U.S. light truck and SUV sales overall. The automaker sold nearly 148,000 Cadillacs in January through November, including about 14,800 SRXs. But Toyota Motor Corp.'s Lexus division sold five times as many RXs.

The 2010 SRX is expected to be in showrooms in mid-2009. Pricing hasn't been announced.

The public got its first peek of the SRX at a California auto charity event in August. The model is one of three launches GM has planned for the Detroit show that starts next week. There's a new Chevrolet Equinox crossover that the automaker unveiled in December, and a redesigned 2010 Buick LaCrosse sedan will make its debut.

AP

This image provided by General Motors shows the 2010 Cadillac SRX crossover vehicle. The redesigned vehicle was unveiled Sunday Jan. 4, 2009 and is set to go on display at the 2009 North American International Auto Show in Detroit later this month. It replaces the SRX model first launched in 2004. The 2010 SRX is expected to be in showrooms in mid-2009. Pricing hasn't been announced.

Life & Style

To personalize your garden, think beyond plants

By JOEL M. LERNER, APLD
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

When homeowners cut their landscaping budget, they typically get rid of things such as garden pools, fountains, walls, seating, sculpture, containers and lighting. But these elements, which can be grouped together as "site amenities," contribute to the impact of a garden.

These additions can cost thousands of dollars, or they can cost nothing. Whether you are scavenging for the right sculptural element, such as a rock, log, shell or driftwood, or commissioning a $200,000 work of art, the investment can be worth it. Even pink flamingo lawn ornaments can look good with the right placement, perhaps under a banana tree or by a pool.

THE WASHINGTON POST

Sculptural elements can make a plain space special.

Garden pools

Position garden pools in sunny areas so plants will thrive and the water won't collect a lot of leaves and debris. Bring the pool into balance by creating a complete, living, breathing ecosystem. Install flowering aquatic plants. They will shade the algae and subdue its growth. Snails will clean the pool and a pump will recirculate and aerate the water.

Fountains

The appeal of water is so strong that almost every garden has an area that can benefit from a fountain. In addition to beauty, fountains add sound. Self-contained, freestanding units are available in fiberglass, metal, ceramic, stone, bamboo, glass and concrete.

Walls

Walls add stability to a site. Retaining walls can provide level areas for seating, water retention and plants. Stone walls can serve as sculptural elements, too. Building a low rock retaining wall can be a simple garden project for cool weather. Natural fieldstone walls can add appeal to a property, especially one located on a slope.

Seating

A comfortable place to sit provides function, aesthetics and somewhere to relax in your garden. Lash a hammock between two trees for the classic picture of summer laziness or attach it to a self-standing frame so you can move it around from patio to pool to perennial garden. Anything can serve as a seat—rocks, walls, tree stumps. You can sit on simple folding chairs or ornate stone benches. Place a bench in a separate area off the path and you have a destination.

Sculpture

Objects that add ornamental interest are excellent accents to your garden. Sculptural elements can make a plain space special. Use one to grace an entry. Integrate a favorite found piece or statue into the garden or in some way use ornamentation that reflects its surroundings. Back up sculpture with shrubbery.

THE WASHINGTON POST

Almost any garden can benefit from a fountain.

Containers

For thousands of years, urns and vases have been used as sculptural elements. Ornate containers are probably most ornamental without plants, so keep greenery simple in these.

Lighting

Lighting extends the time the garden can be used and offers an element of security and safety, such as top-lighting stairs, walks and entries. It adds enormous value to your property. Try different combinations. Graze walls with light from above through branches, creating a moonlighting effect and a play of shadows on the ground. Aim lights up into small flowering trees for a dramatic effect. Backlight to silhouette a plant and accentuate its form.

Lighting the garden can bring romance and mystery and completely change a landscape's identity. Just as the gleam of copper or glass can add a new dimension to a well-furnished room, so can the addition of site amenities to a well-planted garden.

Lerner is president of Environmental Design in Capitol View Park, Md., and author of "Anyone Can Landscape"(Ball 2001). Contact him through his Web site, www.gardenlerner.com.

Postal Service lifts curtain on next year's stamps

WASHINGTON (AP)—Lucy and Ethel lose their struggle with a chocolate assembly line. Joe Friday demands "just the facts" with a penetrating gaze. A secret word brings Groucho a visit from a duck.

Folks who grew up as television came of age will delight in a 20-stamp set included in the Postal Service's plans for 2009 recalling early memories of the medium.

Besides commemorating black-and-white TV, the service's 2009 postage stamp program ranges from commemorating President Abraham Lincoln to the Thanksgiving Day parade, civil rights pioneers, actor Gary Cooper, poet Edgar Allan Poe, Supreme Court justices and Alaska and Hawaii statehood.

Most of the commemorative stamps are priced at 42 cents, the current first-class rate. However, a rate increase is scheduled in May and the size will depend on the consumer price index.

The Early TV Memories stamp set is scheduled for release Aug. 11 in Los Angeles.

One recalls the quiz show "You Bet Your Life," on which the unflappable Groucho Marx awarded prizes to contestants who answered questions. If they said a secret word, a toy duck dropped down with a cash reward.

In a memorable scene from "I Love Lucy," Lucille Ball and sidekick Ethel Mertz work at an assembly line that speeds up and they can't wrap the candy quickly enough, causing panic.

In the stamp commemorating the cop show "Dragnet," star Jack Webb as detective Joe Friday gives his "just the facts, ma'am," stare, while on another stamp sweetheart singer Dinah Shore throws the audience a kiss.

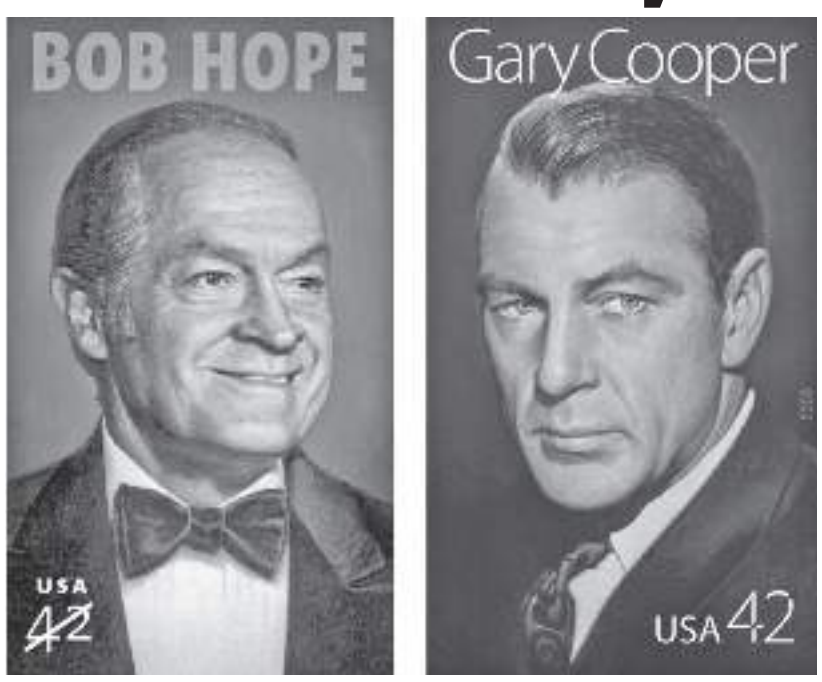
Other shows featured are "Adventures of Ozzie & Harriet," "Alfred Hitchcock Presents," "Ed Sullivan Show," "George Burns & Gracie Allen Show," "Hopalong Cassidy," "The Honeymooners," "Howdy Doody," "Kukla, Fran and Ollie," "Lassie," "The Lone Ranger," "Perry Mason," "Phil Silvers Show," "Red Skelton," "Texaco Star Theater," "Tonight Show" and "Twilight Zone."

September brings a series honoring the contributions of Supreme Court associate justices Joseph Story, Louis D. Brandeis, Felix Frankfurter and William J. Brennan, Jr.

A dozen pioneers of the civil rights movement will be honored with stamps scheduled for release Feb. 21 in New York.

Included are writer and lecturer Mary Church Terrell; journalist Mary White Ovington; J.R. Clifford, the first black attorney licensed in West Virginia; Joel Elias Spingarn, who endowed the Spingarn Medal, awarded by the NAACP for outstanding achievement by a black American; Oswald Garrison Villard, a founder of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; Daisy Gatson Bates, who mentored nine black students enrolled at all-white Central High School in Little Rock, Ark., in 1957.

Also Charles Hamilton Houston, an architect of the civil rights movement; Walter White, who conducted undercover investigations for the NAACP; Medgar Evers, an NAACP official in Mississippi until his assassination in 1963; Fannie Lou Hamer, a Mississippi sharecropper who fought for black voting rights; lifetime activist Ella Baker and NAACP leader Ruby Hurley.



AP

These undated handout images provided by the U.S. Postal Service shows 2009 postage stamps honoring Bob Hope, left, and Gary Cooper.

Other scheduled stamps include:

■ Statehood anniversary stamps for the 50th year of Alaska and Hawaii, and Oregon's 150th.

■ Lunar New Year, marking the Year of the Ox, starting Jan. 26.

■ Poe, marking the 200th anniversary of the birth of the poet and fiction writer.

■ Lincoln, also born in 1809, will be honored on four commemorative stamps.

■ Wedding Cake and Wedding Rings, for sending invitations. -Comedian Bob Hope is recalled for a life devoted to making people laugh, especially his efforts to visit and entertain men and women in uniform, starting in 1941 and continuing through the Persian Gulf War five decades later.

■ Anna Julia Cooper, the 32nd in the Black Heritage series, recalls the educator, scholar, feminist and activist who gave voice to the African-American community during the 19th and 20th centuries.

■ Flags of Our Nation, two sets covering Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina and North Dakota.

■ Gulf Coast Lighthouses, showing those of Matagorda Island, Texas; Sabine Pass, La.; Biloxi, Miss., Sand Island, near the entrance to Mobile Bay, Ala., and Fort Jefferson, also known as Garden Key Lighthouse, 50 miles west of Key West, Fla.

■ American Treasures: Edward Hopper, a painting by the artist showing a boat sailing against the wind near Provincetown, Mass.

■ Richard Wright, author of "Native Son," is the 25th writer commemorated in the Literary Arts series.

■ Thanksgiving Day Parade, a four-stamp set of scenes from the annual event.

■ Gary Cooper becomes the 15th inductee into the Legends of Hollywood series.

■ Nature of America: Kelp Forest, the latest in a series featuring plant and animal communities.

The program also includes the latest in the "Love" series, a tribute to the king and queen of hearts, and holiday stamps marking Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa.

Gary Coleman's habit of police involvement

SANTAQUIN, Utah (AP)—Gary Coleman, who makes it no secret that he likes his privacy and wants to be left alone, chose to settle in small-town Utah—far away from the paparazzi and autograph seekers of his former life as a TV star.

But a rocky romance, a prescription pill overdose and sometimes contentious interactions with the public have brought him unwanted attention here, where public records show a pattern of Coleman involving police in his personal life.

Coleman

Officers have been called to assist or intervene with Coleman 21 times since he moved to Utah in fall 2005, according to police reports—including a July 2007 call where Coleman told authorities he had taken dozens of Oxycontin pills, was suicidal and "wanted to die."

"Gary ... was upset that his girlfriend was breaking up with him. He calmed down and was cooperative and acknowledged he took approx(imately) 30-40 Oxycontin pills. He said he is suicidal and 'wanted to die,'" according to a police report.

Coleman could not be reached for comment. His phone number is unlisted, nobody answered a call button at his home and messages left with Coleman's agent and an attorney were not immediately returned.

Coleman, 40, has acknowledged attempting suicide in the past, saying in a 1993 television interview he had tried to kill himself twice by overdosing on pills.

In April of this year, police were called to Coleman's home because they were told he was having marital problems and threatened to harm himself, although police didn't find him suicidal.

Documents show Coleman has long had a tumultuous relationship with his now-wife, Shannon Price, 23. The two met in Utah on the set of the 2006 comedy, "Church Ball."

In January 2007, Coleman called police because he was worried Price was going to bring her three brothers to confront him following an argument they had. Then in July of that year, he exploded at Price in a clinic parking lot in Provo.

"Coleman was yelling and pounding his steering wheel for approximately 10 minutes before he jumped out of his truck. He ran out in front of his truck and around to the woman's door, stopping several cars, and then he went to his door and was running around, yelling and screaming and throwing his arms in the air as he did," the police report says. "Coleman was yelling that he could not take it anymore."

The report says Price felt threatened and was worried things were going to "get out of control they way they did earlier." The 4-foot-8 actor was charged with disorderly conduct and eventually placed on probation.

One month later, Coleman whisked Price, who is 5-foot-7, to a Nevada mountaintop to wed.

In October 2007, Price told police Coleman threw an object at her that caused a small scrape on her hand, although she couldn't say whether it was intentional and police didn't trust either of their stories after going over the domestic violence statute.

"I could not develop enough probable cause to make an arrest," the police report says.

Coleman also worries that people are trying to break into his home, which has a privacy wall and is partially fenced, according to police reports. He has called police, saying he found a window open and, on another occasion, when he heard a noise that turned out to be fallen boxes in his basement. Once, he called because there was mud on his car, presumably some kind of drywall residue.

Banned words list offers no 'bailout' to offenders

DETROIT (AP)—A movie about a "maverick," his journey "from Wall Street to Main Street," his "desperate search" for a "monkey" and a "game-changing" revelation about his "carbon footprint" probably would make the nation's word-watchers physically ill.

Especially if it were the "winner of five nominations."

All those words and phrases are on Lake Superior State University's annual List of Words to Be Banished from the Queen's English for Mis-use, Over-use and General Uselessness. The 34th version of the list was released Tuesday, which means, "It's that time of year again."

The school in Michigan's Upper Peninsula selected 15 entries from about 5,000 nominations.

Despite the year's economic meltdown (which itself wasn't banished but don't rule it out for next year), the most entries came from the environmental category—for "green" or "going green."

"If I see one more corporation declare itself 'green,' I'm going to start burning tires in my backyard," wrote Ed Hardiman of Bristow, Va., in his submission. Nominators also had their fill of "carbon footprint"—the amount of greenhouse gases an individual's lifestyle produces.

The list wasn't overrun with politics despite the national election—no "change," for instance—but one simply couldn't escape the critics' wrath.

"I'm a maverick, he's a maverick, wouldn't you like to be a maverick, too?" offered Michael Burke of Silver Spring, Md., in his entry for the label embraced by unsuccessful Republican presidential candidate John McCain.

Also knocked was "first dude," a term adopted by Todd Palin, husband of McCain's running mate, Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin.

Words related to the economy led to a few meltdowns.

"I am so tired of hearing about everything affecting 'Main Street.' I know that with the 'Wall Street' collapse, the comparison is convenient, but really, let's find another way to talk about everyman or the middle class, or even, heaven forbid, 'Joe the Plumber.'" wrote Stacey from Knoxville, Tenn. She provided only a first name in her bid to eradicate—or at least separate—Wall Street" and "Main Street."

Although this year's sluggish economy and record rise in gas prices may have kept people closer to home, the word coined for it, "staycation," is "idiotic and rootless," says Michele Mooney of Los Angeles.

An emoticon made the list for the first time. The strings of characters used in e-mails and text-messaging commonly represent a face—like ;-) or :-0—but the school singled out an emoticon heart, formed with a "less than" symbol and the number 3.

"Monkey" was on the list because of what some see as its rampant use as a suffix. "Especially on the Internet, many people seem to think they can make any boring name sound more attractive just by adding the word 'monkey' to it," wrote Rogier Landman of Sommerville, Mass.

The school's annual quest to throw lexicon logs on the fire always gets some end-of-the-year attention for the school in Sault Ste. Marie, the last stop before Michigan's northern border crossing with Canada. But the list is more about letting off steam and offering laughs than performing any verbal vanishing act.

"We get several nominations for the same word or phrase, and we still get nominations for words and phrases that have been on previous years' lists," said university spokesman Tom Pink.

"'At this point in time' was on the first list in 1976 and it continues to be nominated every year. People still hate it."

In Celebration of Her New Life

Fermina Castro Belyeu

Passionately and lovingly known as
'Minang Lolli'
Was born on July 20, 1943 &
Called to her eternal rest by our heavenly father
on January 1, 2009

In her passing, she now joins her:

Husband: James Oscar Belyeu
Child: James Belyeu Jr.
Reared Son: Calistro C. Mafnas
Parents: Manuel Diaz Castro &
Francisca Maidesil Castro (Ngsiliong)
Siblings & David Castro, Baldebino Castro, Sr. Mary Frances,
Sabina C. Mafnas, Mary Belyeu,
In-Laws: Bobby & Joyce Belyeu and Cindy Belyeu

Her memories will forever remain in the hearts of her children:
William Kenneth Belyeu (William Jr., Brandon, Bert Jacob)
Harold & Kayla Belyeu (Samantha)
Noelani & James Walker
Sonia Belyeu & Glennn Mai (KJ, Jovani, Bryton. Kelly)
Tayna & Ray Camacho (Max, Luke, Noah, SeoniRae, Tayzalin)

Brother and in-laws:
Torcuato & Anna Castro; (†)Sabina C. & Leocardo Mafnas; (†)David & Simico Castro; Donald & Mary Belyeu; Mike & Sherry Belyeu; and Tommy & (†)Cindy Belyeu

Special Sister:
Delgadina C. Alepuyo

Nightly mass is offered at the San Roque church at 6:00 p.m. and immediately followed by the rosary. On Friday, January 9, 2009, the family will bring Fermina Ngsiliong Meidesil Castro Belyeu at 7 a.m. from CHC to the San Roque Church followed by the Responso and rosary with the Mass for Christian Burial at 11 a.m. immediately followed by the Internment at the San Roque cemetery.

Thank you for your thoughts and prayers.

From the Family

In Celebration of Her New Life

Ellen Ebreo Castro

May 10, 1954 - January 2, 2009

Husband: John I. Castro, Jr. (Juan Kan)
Children: John Jason E. & Sonja H. Castro
Jennifer Eileen E. Castro
Jay Michael E. Castro
Janice Ann E. Castro
Father: †Eugenio Ebreo
Mother: Carmen Ebreo
Siblings: Alex & Cora Ebreo (PI)
Alicia & Vir Abueme
Carlos Ebreo & Marjie Borja
Sylvia & Art Salazar (Guam)
Cleotilde Ebreo & Manny Sitchon
Doy & Marjorie Ebreo (PI)
Ruel & Eloisa Ebreo
†Felino Ebreo

Father In-Law: †Juan Cabrera Castro
Mother In-Law: †Esparanza G. Castro

Siblings In-Law:
†Gregorio I. & Susana T. Castro
†Herman I. & Maria Castro
Candido I. & Visminda Castro
Marcelino I. Castro
†Vicente I. Castro
Vicenta C. & Gary Wambol (CA)
Ana C. & †Noberto Javier
Dolores G. Castro
Magdelena C. & Fred F. Camacho
Antonio I. & Melina Castro
†Margarita C. & Francisco Borja
Maria Ana C. & Pedro Tudela
Jose I. Castro

Ellen is also survived by numerous, nieces, nephews, families and friends.

Daily mass is being offered at San Antonio Church from Jan 5th through the 10th at 6:00 p.m. Immediately followed by the Holy Rosary.

On Friday, January 9, 2009 our Beloved will escorted from the Nuestra Senora dela Paz to Mount Carmel Cathedral at 9:00 a.m. followed by the Holy Rosary at 11:00 a.m. Mass of Christian burial will be offered at 3:00 p.m. and internment service will be at the Sanctuario in Kagman.

Your presence, thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.

John I. Castro Jr., John Jason & Sonja, Jennifer, Jay Micheal, Janice and Family.

Travolta says he is heartbroken at son's death

FREEPORT, Bahamas (AP)—John Travolta said Sunday he and his wife Kelly Preston are "heartbroken" over the death of their chronically ill 16-year-old son, who collapsed at the family's vacation home on Grand Bahama.

Police Superintendent Basil Rahming has said a caretaker found Jett Travolta unconscious in a bathroom late Friday morning and he was later pronounced dead at a Freeport hospital. The youth was last seen entering the bathroom on Thursday, according to Rahming's police statement.

"We are heartbroken that our time with him was so brief. We will cherish the time we had with him for the rest of our lives," Travolta and Preston said in their first public statement since Jett's death.

"Jett was the most wonderful son that two parents could ever ask for and lit up the lives of everyone he encountered," said a statement posted Sunday on Travolta's Web site.

"We have received many messages of condolence from around the world and we want to thank everyone for their prayers and support. It has meant so much to us. It is a beautiful reminder of the inherent goodness in the human spirit that gives us hope for a brighter future."

AP

Actor John Travolta and actress-wife Kelly Preston arrive at the Santa Barbara International Film Festival's Kirk Douglas Award for Excellence in Film in this Thursday, Nov. 15, 2007 file photo taken in Santa Barbara, Calif.

Preston and Travolta have said that Jett became very sick when he was 2 years old and was diagnosed with Kawasaki Syndrome, an illness that leads to inflamed blood vessels in young children. Preston blamed household cleaners and fertilizers, and said that a detoxification program based on teachings from the Church of Scientology helped improve his health, according to People magazine. Others said Jett was prone to seizures.

Michael McDermott, an attorney for the actor, said Sunday that although Jett was last seen Thursday and found the following day, he doesn't believe that the teen was in the bathroom for a substantial amount of time.

"The police left the impression that the boy was unsupervised. No. There were two nannies with him for the entire evening," McDermott told The Associated Press. "They made it seem like he was sent to the condo and nobody checked in on him until the next morning."

"(Jett) was spectacularly supervised," said McDermott, who said he has not had the chance to talk to the two nannies himself.

McDermott said he had no knowledge of Jett's medical history but "understood he had a history of seizures." It is unclear whether Jett was taking medication for that.

The Bahamas' health minister, Dr. Hubert Minnis, has said that a second, U.S.-certified pathologist will fly in at dawn Monday to assist with the teenager's autopsy.

"I have spoken to (Travolta) and informed him that the government is doing everything it can," Minnis said Sunday, adding he could not disclose further specifics about the autopsy.

About a dozen security guards and Bahamian police officers patrolled Sunday around the luxury Old Bahama Bay resort community where Travolta and Preston remained inside their home. The white-sand beach in front of the suites was closed.

The couple also have an 8-year-old daughter, Ella Bleu.

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$5.25 Military with Valid I.D.

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Bedtime Stories

Thurs thru Sat	1:20	4:05	7:25	9:45
Sunday	1:20	4:05	7:25	
Mon thru Wed		4:05	7:25	

Adam Sandler, Keri Russell
Comedy, Adventure • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
Hotel handyman Skeeter Bronson's life is changed forever when the bedtime stories he tells his niece and nephew start to mysteriously come true. When he tries to help his family by telling one outlandish tale after another, it's the kids' unexpected contributions that turn all of their lives upside down.

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button

Thurs thru Sat	1:00	4:00	7:00	10:00
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Mon thru Wed		4:00	7:00	

Brad Pitt, Cate Blanchett
Drama, Romance • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
Benjamin Button is a man who is born in his eighties and ages backwards: a man, like any of us, who is unable to stop time. From New Orleans at the end of World War I in 1918, into the 21st century, on a journey as unusual as any man's life can be, this is the grand tale of a not so ordinary man and the people and places he discovers along the way, the loves he finds and loses, the joys of life and the sadness of death, and what lasts beyond time.

Marley and Me

Thurs thru Sat	1:25	4:30	7:15	9:55
Sunday	1:25	4:30	7:15	
Mon thru Wed		4:30	7:15	

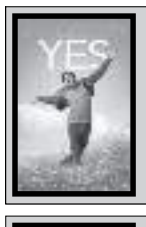
Owen Wilson, Jennifer Aniston
Comedy, Drama • Rated PG 13

Valkyrie

Thurs thru Sat	1:30	4:25	7:20	9:50
Sunday	1:30	4:25	7:20	
Mon thru Wed		4:25	7:20	

Tom Cruise, Bill Nighy
Thriller, War, Historical • Rated PG 13

★ ★ ★



Yes Man

Thurs thru Sat	1:05	4:20	7:05	9:35
Sunday	1:05	4:20	7:05	
Mon thru Wed		4:20	7:05	

Jim Carrey, Bradley Cooper
Comedy • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
Carl Allen's life is going nowhere—the operative word being "no"—until he signs up for a self-help program based on one simple covenant: say yes to everything—and anything. Unleashing the power of "YES" begins to transform Carl's life in amazing an unexpected ways, getting him promoted at work and opening the door to a new romance.

The Tale of Despereaux

Thurs thru Sat	1:10	4:15	7:30	9:30
Sunday	1:10	4:15	7:30	
Mon thru Wed		4:15	7:30	

Sigourney Weaver, Dustin Hoffman
Animated, Chicldren • Rated G

Seven Pounds

Thurs thru Sat	1:15	4:10	7:10	9:40
Sunday	1:15	4:10	7:10	
Mon thru Wed		4:10	7:10	

Will Smith, Rosario Dawson
Drama, Romance • Rated PG 13

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'Marley & Me' remains top dog with $24 million weekend haul

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jennifer Aniston, Owen Wilson and their little dog have not lost their box office bite.

The family tale "Marley & Me," starring Aniston and Wilson as owners of an adorably mischievous pooch, took in $24.1 million to finish as the No. 1 movie for a second-straight weekend, according to studio estimates Sunday.

The 20th Century Fox flick raised its total to $106.5 million since opening Christmas day.

With no new wide releases, the weekend shaped up largely like the previous one, with Disney's Adam Sandler comedy "Bedtime Stories" in second place with $20.3 million.

Rounding out the top five again were Paramount's Brad Pitt romantic drama "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button" with $18.4 million, MGM's Tom Cruise World War II saga "Valkyrie" with $14 million and the Warner Bros. Jim Carrey comedy "Yes Man" with $13.9 million.

In a season loaded with wartime stories, two more Nazi-themed films opened in limited release.

Paramount Vantage's "Defiance" debuted with $121,000 in two theaters for a whopping average of $60,500 a cinema. By comparison, "Marley & Me" averaged $6,862 in 3,505 theaters. "Defiance" stars Daniel Craig in the story of Jewish brothers who form a band of freedom fighters against the Nazis in Eastern Europe.

ThinkFilm's "Good" opened with $9,300 in two theaters, averaging $4,650. The film casts Viggo Mortensen as an upright German academic gradually seduced into the Nazi fold as World War II approaches.

Hollywood finished 2008 with solid returns. Domestic movie revenues totaled $9.63 billion for the year, just shy of the $9.68 billion record set in 2007, according to box-office tracker Media By Numbers.

AP

In this image released by 20th Century Fox, Owen Wilson and Jennifer Aniston are shown in a scene from, "Marley and Me."

1. "Marley & Me," $24.1 million.
2. "Bedtime Stories," $20.3 million.
3. "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button," $18.4 million.
4. "Valkyrie," $14 million.
5. "Yes Man," $13.9 million.
6. "Seven Pounds," $10 million.
7. "The Tale of Despereaux," $7 million.
8. "Doubt," $5 million.
9. "The Day the Earth Stood Still," $4.9 million.
10. "Slumdog Millionaire," $4.8 million.

Factoring in 2008's higher admission prices, the number of tickets sold fell to 1.35 billion, down 4.3 percent from the year before.

That was a solid result given hard economic times, said Paul Dergarabedian, president of Media By Numbers.

"The movie industry is totally holding its own in the face of the recession, increased competition from other entertainment options and emerging technologies," Dergarabedian said.

The new year was off to a good start, with the top 12 movies taking in $130.1 million, up 7.4 percent from the same weekend in 2008.

"Marley & Me" remained the pet picture for audiences looking to relax and unwind over the holidays, said 20th Century Fox distribution executive Bert Livingston.

"A picture doesn't stay No. 1 for two weeks without getting great word of mouth," Livingston said. "It's a feel-good movie. That's what people want to see right now."

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Media By Numbers LLC. Final figures will be released Monday.

'Monsters vs. Aliens' gets 3D Super Bowl promo

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Talk about a monster of a promotion.

Some 150 million 3D glasses will be given away for Super Bowl viewers to watch a three-minute 3D sneak preview of the big-screen animated feature "Monsters vs. Aliens." While 3D telecasts are nothing new, this marks the first time one has been done for such a large audience.

DreamWorks Animation chief executive Jeffrey Katzenberg called the stunt "perhaps the biggest media-advertising event in history." He wouldn't give a hard figure on the cost, but said it "involves tens of millions of dollars."

Katzenberg promised the quality of the 3D will be superior to what has been done in the past. He said the glasses will use Intel InTru 3D and ColorCode 3-D, which updates the old red-blue Anaglyph system.

The technology will also allow those without the glasses to see an almost ordinary image on the TV screen. But, Katzenberg added, it still doesn't come close to the 3D quality moviegoers will see in theaters when the film opens stateside March 27.

"Monsters vs. Aliens" follows a group of ragtag Earthling monsters who are out to save the world following an alien invasion. The film features the voices of Reese Witherspoon, Seth Rogen and Kiefer Sutherland.

AP

Jeffrey Katzenberg, CEO and president of DreamWorks Animation Inc., center, and the directors of "Monsters vs. Aliens" Rob Letterman, right, and Conrad Vernon pose for a portrait wearing 3D glasses in Glendale, Calif. on Friday, Dec. 19, 2008.

The glasses will be distributed free at Pepsi/SoBe Life Water displays at 28,000 locations including grocery, drug and electronics stores and big-box retailers.

France's Isabelle Huppert to head Cannes film jury

PARIS (AP)—French actress Isabelle Huppert will head the jury of the 62nd edition of the Cannes film festival in May.

Huppert, 55, who has starred in more than 90 films, has twice won the best actress award at the prestigious film festival on the French Riviera.

"I am very glad and very proud," the actress said in a statement after organizers announced her selection Friday. "I've had a long relationship with Cannes and this next meeting will definitely seal my love for the festival and thus for global cinema."

Huppert has sat on the jury at Cannes, presented the award ceremony and represented more than a dozen films in competition. She won best actress in 2001 for "The Piano Teacher" and in 1978 for "Violette," directed by French director Claude Chabrol.

Huppert and Chabrol have worked together regularly, including on the 1991 film "Madame Bovary." She has also worked with foreign filmmakers including Michael Cimino, Joseph Losey, Curtis Hanson, Hal Hartley and David O. Russell.

The Cannes film festival will run from May 13 to 24.

AP

In this Nov. 21, 2008 file photo, French actress Isabelle Huppert, seen, during the closing ceremony of the Estoril Film Festival in Estoril, Portugal.

AP

Actor Woody Harrelson in a June 12, 1998 file photo.

Woody Harrelson weds longtime love in Maui

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Woody Harrelson and his longtime love have officially wed.

A spokeswoman for Harrelson said the 47-year-old actor married his girlfriend of 20 years, Laura Louie, in Maui on Sunday.

The spokeswoman, Ina Treciokas, added that the ceremony was attended by family and friends.

Harrelson and Louie have three daughters. Harrelson's recent screen credits include "No Country for Old Men," "Semi-Pro" and "Seven Pounds."

Veteran actor Pat Hingle dies at 84 in NC home

CAROLINA BEACH, N.C. (AP)—Pat Hingle, a veteran actor whose career included a recurring role as Commissioner Gordon in several Batman movies in the 1990s, has died after battling blood cancer. He was 84.

Family friend Michele Seidman says Hingle died at his home in Carolina Beach shortly after 10 p.m. Saturday.

Seidman says he decided to settle in the coastal town after shooting the movie "Maximum Overdrive" in the area in 1986. He lived there for more than 15 years. Family spokeswoman Lynn Heritage says Hingle was diagnosed with myelodysplasia in November 2006.

His career in movies and television spanned six decades, and he was also nominated for a Tony Award in 1958. Hingle's last movie was "Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby," which was released in 2006.

Spoleto Festival USA unveils modest 2009 schedule

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP)—Tributes to longtime chamber music director Charles Wadsworth, a return visit by the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and an operetta inspired by movie actor Peter Lorre highlight a more modest 2009 season of the Spoleto Festival USA.

The 33rd season of the internationally known arts festival will be staged from May 22 through June 2 across Charleston, festival organizers announced Sunday.

This year's festival has a budget of $6.2 million—down from last year's $8.4 million, said festival spokeswoman Paula Edwards. Last year's festival was staged just as the national economy soured and ended the season $372,000 in the red—the first deficit for the festival in 13 years.

This year's festival includes only one opera, a new production of Gustave Charpentier's seldom-staged "Louise," which is set in working-class Paris. Wadsworth has directed the popular Spoleto chamber music series since the festival was established in 1977 and this will be his last season.

He will be the guest of honor at Spoleto's opening weekend gala and a concert will be staged in his honor on the festival's second weekend. Following the season's last chamber music concert June 7, high tea will be served in Wadsworth's honor in the president's garden at the College of Charleston.

Other Spoleto highlights include "Addicted to Bad Ideas: Peter Lorre's 20th Century," an operetta bringing together director Jay Scheib and World/Inferno Friendship Society, a New York punk band.

Britain's Kneehigh Theatre, which appeared at Spoleto in 2006, returns to stage "Dear John," a theater production inspired by Mozart's "Don Giovanni."

The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater performs during Spoleto's opening weekend as part of the company's 50th anniversary tour. The appearance marks the troupe's fifth Spoleto appearance.

Words can inflict wounds no apology can fully cure

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I'm writing regarding "Perplexed in South Dakota" (Oct. 15), who said "terrible things" to her friend in anger. The friend forgave her, but did not wish to continue the friendship.

I have been in that position, but my situation went beyond hurtful words. At the time, I was in a great deal of emotional pain and was devastated because I trusted the people involved. I struggled with forgiving them, and I am happy to say that I recently did.

Through the process, I learned two important lessons: First, forgiveness has everything to do with me and very little to do with the offender. By letting go of the hurt, I freed myself from the emotional bondage I was in.

The second lesson I learned was that forgiveness does not mean reconciliation. When you lose trust in someone, it takes time to regain it. Sometimes the damage can never fully be repaired.

BEEN THERE IN SPRINGFIELD, MASS.

DEAR BEEN THERE: Thank you for sharing what you learned. I told "Perplexed" that even though her friend no longer holds a grudge, she may consider "Perplexed" too dangerous to allow back in her life. Readers agreed with my advice that "Perplexed" watch what she says in anger in the future and cited their own experiences. Read on:

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: One of my best friends and I had a falling-out some time ago due to a misunderstanding (I'll spare you the details). It was very painful for both of us.

She cut off contact with me first, and it was devastating. Despite my efforts, she apparently needed time to gather her thoughts and feelings. After a year and a half she called me, apologized and said she hoped we could pick up where we had left off. The problem is: I can't. I was hurt to the core.

I still stay in touch with her, but my heart is no longer where it was. Although I miss her, I still resent her misjudgment of my loyalty. Forgiveness has many levels, and one level may be that of closure.

NOT THE SAME IN THE EAST

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: It is interesting that after saying terrible things to her friend, "Perplexed" did not apologize for several weeks, waited for her ex-friend to contact her, and apologized only after being informed by the friend that she was ending the friendship. The apology was self-serving, given only to convince her friend not to dump her. Why didn't she call immediately after realizing that what she said was awful?

In addition, her apology was in writing, instead of on the phone or in person, to avoid the discomfort of facing her friend. The message this reluctant apology sends is that she was never going to apologize unless and until she stood to lose something.

I see no true remorse—only indignation that her friend is not "forgiving" her correctly. Some people need to learn what a proper apology is.

SEEN IT ALL BEFORE IN UPSTATE N.Y.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Perhaps this example will help "Perplexed" better understand why the friend to whom she said hurtful words couldn't forgive and forget: Take a jar of nails and hammer them into a wooden fence. Imagine that each and every nail is a cruel or unkind word. Now remove each nail one by one, apologizing each time you do. When you are done, stand back and look at the fence. The nails are gone, but the holes remain. Cruel words can leave wounds that no amount of apology can fully erase.

LIVING BY THAT EXAMPLE IN CALIF.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

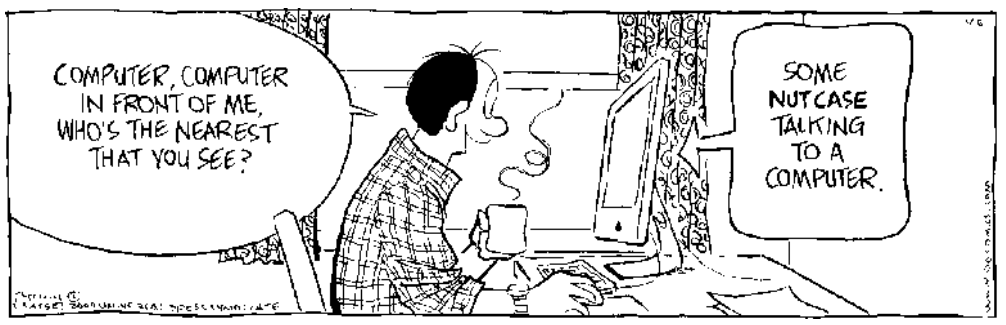
NEXT TIME WE GO DOWN, I GET TO STEER THE SLED.
YOU?! YOU STEER LIKE AN OLD LADY!
YEAH, WELL, I'M SICK OF GOING OVER AND THROUGH EVERY OBSTACLE ON THE HILL.
"EVERY OBSTACLE"?!? WE MISSED THE BRIAR PATCH, DIDN'T WE?!
BY GOING DOWN THE GULLY AND INTO THE STREAM, YES.
OH, YOU MAKE EVERYTHING SOUND SO TERRIBLE. YOU SHOULD BE GLAD WE'RE ALIVE.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

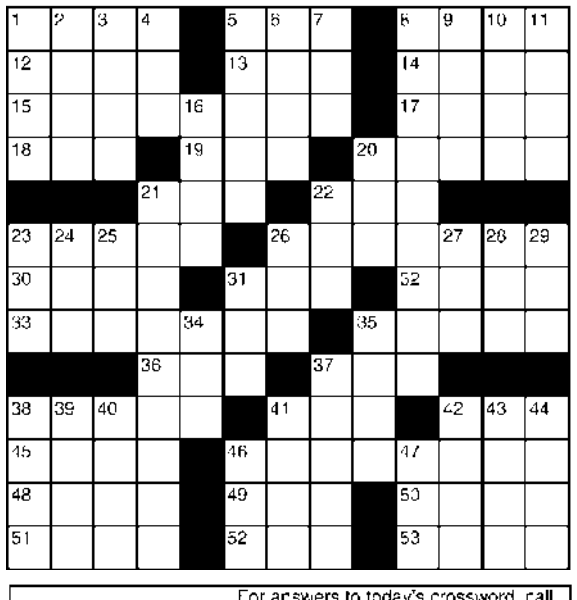
ACROSS
1 Candle circler
5 Hot tub
8 Sunbeams
12 Land measure
13 It may be faux
14 Curved molding
15 St. Patrick's Day symbol
17 Just adorable
18 Plaything
19 Anger
20 Wool quantity
21 Barracks bed
22 Victory
23 Trivial
26 Takes for a time
30 State
31 Tibetan critter
32 Reed instrument
33 Inhabitant
35 Michigan city
36 2004 horror movie
37 Zero
38 Pointed
41 Tuna container
42 "Indubitably"
45 — contendere
46 "Saturday Evening Post" cover artist
48 Oil-cartel acronym
49 Ford or Lincoln
50 Additionally
51 It lasts for days
52 Hearty brew
53 Merriment

DOWN
1 Sail support
2 Siete + uno
3 Salver
4 Height of fashion?
5 Recreational activity
6 Wear a rut in the rug
7 Request
8 Elvis' genre
9 Malaria symptom
10 Bigfoot's cousin
11 No longer hidden
16 Urban disturbance
20 Knight's address
21 Voice of Marty the Zebra in "Madagascar"
22 Moo goo gai pan pan
23 Young fellow
24 "— Got a Secret"
25 Army rank (Abbr.)
26 Proscribe
27 Sapporo sash
28 Money of North Korea
29 Collection
31 Evergreen variety
34 Use a ray gun
35 Stoolie
37 Mother-of-pearl
38 Frosty's makeup
39 Crosby crony
40 Sheltered
41 Brat's stocking stuffer
42 Holler
43 Differently
44 — gin fizz
46 Nipper's co.
47 Move back and forth

Solution time: 21 mins.

S	H	E		W	A	S		I	C	U	R	
C	A	L	F		I	C	Y		A	B	L	Y
O	R	S	O		T	I	N		K	I	T	E
T	E	C	U	P		S	O	S	E			
			R	O	W		D	O	T	C	O	M
C	H	A	I	E	R		S	H	O	V	E	
I	A	T	H		D	C	G		F	V	F	N
A	L	O	O	F		D	U	F	E	R	S	
P	O	P	E	L	Y		M	T	I			
			J	L	A	N		A	F	T	F	A
B	E	A	U		C	C	G		T	H	A	I
E	V	I	L		H	J	E		H	E	R	S
V	A	R	Y		T	N	T			E	L	K

Yesterday's answer 1-6



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ or y.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Gabrielle Reece, 39; John Singleton, 41; Rowan Atkinson, 54; Bonnie Franklin, 65

Happy Birthday: You are in a good position this year, but don't be greedy. Being fair will allow you to keep your dreams afloat and your pocketbook healthy. Sharing and caring will bring you riches. You can make the ones you love proud and strengthen your family ties by playing your cards right this year. Your numbers are 5, 7, 12, 18, 24, 32, 40

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Open your mind to the possibilities and you will discover a way to satisfy your own needs and others' as well. A chance to talk to someone from your past about future plans will be enlightening but don't give away your trade secrets. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Plan a vacation or consider signing up for a conference or course that will help you up your earning potential or awaken your spiritual side. Love is clearly in the picture and must be nurtured if you want it to flourish. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You can convince everyone around you that you have a great plan but don't overstep your bounds. A problem with someone you work with or have to deal with on a daily basis will catch you off-guard. A past partner is likely to resurface. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Get things in order and you will feel much better about your home, your work and your personal life. There are promises to be made and life-changing emotional matters to be dealt with. Stop procrastinating. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Don't believe everything you hear. Find out the truth before making a decision that can influence your future. A problem with a co-worker is likely if you are too open about your feelings. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You need to put yourself and the ones you love first. It won't hurt to spend a little to bring you closer to those you care about. Now is the perfect time to take advantage of the economic situation. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Put a little time and effort into fixing up your surroundings. Inviting friends over or planning a reunion of sorts will produce memories and could renew old ideas. A good project is in sight. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Stick to what and who you know. Love is in the stars, so focus on how you can make up for lost time and please that special person you've neglected while being so preoccupied. Good things are heading your way. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Take advantage of any opportunity to increase your income or change to a position with greater security. Someone older may question what you are doing. Listen to the advice being offered, even if you have made up your mind. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You can make changes to your home or your portfolio and come out on top. There is much to be gained if you don't allow your emotions to stand in the way of good choices. Be factual and precise. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Getting along with others will be half the battle. Listen to what's being said but hold your thoughts until you know where you stand and how far you can go. Overreacting will only lead to trouble. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Look to the future with optimism. You should be able to form a partnership to help you acquire your goals. Love is in the stars but don't let a secret encounter tempt you. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are inquisitive, bright and sensitive to what others say and do. You think big and sometimes make mistakes because of that. You are a good friend.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			5	6	3			
4								8
6	1						2	7
		5	4		9	8		
		7	2		1	3		
8	9						5	6
7								1
			6	7	2			

Difficulty Level ★★ 1/06

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

4	7	5	9	2	6	3	8	1
8	2	1	7	3	4	6	9	5
9	3	6	8	1	5	7	4	2
7	8	2	3	4	9	1	5	6
5	6	9	1	7	8	4	2	3
1	4	3	6	5	2	9	7	8
6	5	4	2	9	3	8	1	7
3	9	7	5	8	1	2	6	4
2	1	8	4	6	7	5	3	9

Difficulty Level ★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

LOTTERY BINGO TICKETS Solution: 10 letters

E	P	L	R	E	G	U	L	A	T	E	S	F	P	O
L	N	R	A	N	E	C	A	P	S	R	O	L	N	C
B	A	T	I	C	K	E	T	L	E	R	A	I	O	O
M	D	M	I	Z	I	L	O	B	M	Y	S	S	U	L
A	A	R	O	T	E	T	M	W	C	A	T	N	B	U
G	P	S	A	U	L	U	R	R	C	H	C	I	A	M
O	F	N	M	O	N	F	Y	F	O	O	A	F	C	N
V	H	R	S	D	B	T	M	R	V	W	P	N	K	L
E	C	E	E	R	F	D	I	E	I	H	S	A	C	A
R	T	T	I	A	S	Z	R	N	N	M	T	D	F	F
N	A	T	E	W	O	E	N	A	O	T	I	G	H	C
M	R	A	C	N	V	E	A	D	C	R	I	A	C	N
E	C	P	T	E	R	D	N	E	G	E	L	M	L	O
N	S	A	A	K	E	A	S	Q	U	A	R	E	I	C
T	L	L	C	O	R	P	O	R	A	T	I	O	N	L

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Amount, Back, Cardboard, Cash, Casino, Chance, Check, Claim, Column, Conceal, Corporation, Cost, Draw, Entitlement, Form, Free Gamble, Game, Gaming, Government, Grid, Horizontal, Legend, Limit, Match, Money, Number, Patterns, Play, Price, Prize, Random, Regulate, Reveal, Rows, Scratch, Select, Slot, Space, Square, Symbol, Ticket, Uncover, Vertical, Winner

Yesterday's Answer: Mackenzie

CLASSIFIED ADS

WHATZIT Solution: Turn of the tide

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Contact Tel.: # 234-1118

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WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

EDIT

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- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

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Eagles fly past Vikings with 26-14 victory

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Above the Metrodome's deafening noise, Donovan McNabb stayed poised. Completing passes precisely when the Eagles needed him to, McNabb repeatedly sidestepped the Minnesota rush and sent Philadelphia to a 26-14 playoff win Sunday after being all but forgotten as a postseason contender just one month earlier.

Next up: the Super Bowl champion New York Giants.

Brian Westbrook caught a short pass out of the backfield and zigzagged for a devastating 71-yard touchdown midway through the fourth quarter, and the Eagles spoiled the Vikings' first home playoff game in eight years.

"I've seen this team have confidence in each other and try to have one another's back," McNabb said. "What you're seeing is a team playing with a lot of energy, playing with emotion, and just having fun."

Asante Samuel's 44-yard interception return of Tarvaris Jackson's errant pass in the second quarter set a tone for the kind of game most Vikings fans feared from the unpolished quarterback.

Coach Andy Reid improved his playoff record to 9-6, including at least one win each time the Eagles have qualified in his 10 years. He bested his buddy and former offensive coordinator Brad Childress in this one, and they spoke for several moments on the field after the game while maybe a thousand Eagles fans cheered around the tunnel entrance and began a derogatory chant toward the Giants.

"I think we're dangerous," Samuel said. "We've just got to see how it plays out."

Philadelphia will play next Sunday in New Jersey against the top-seeded defending champs, where they won 20-14 on Dec. 7, putting Arizona in the other NFC semifinal Saturday at Carolina and sending the Vikings home.

AP

Philadelphia Eagles' Correll Buckhalter, left, lifts running back Brian Westbrook, second from left, after Westbrook scored on a 71-yard touchdown reception during the fourth quarter against the Minnesota Vikings in an NFL football playoff game in Minneapolis, Sunday, Jan. 4, 2009.

Jackson, who lost his job in September but got it back when Gus Frerotte was hurt, went 15-for-35 for 164 yards. Adrian Peterson's two touchdown runs weren't nearly enough for NFC North champion Minnesota, which will head to yet another offseason with burning questions about the quarterbacks.

"You know, this game sticks with you," Childress said. "You hate to serve up seven points. You have to take that out of your repertoire."

Westbrook couldn't find any room to run, finishing with 38 yards on 20 carries even with two starters (Ray Edwards and Pat Williams) missing on Minnesota's defensive line. But McNabb, who went 23-for-34 for 300 yards, kept the offense from derailing.

He tossed a ball toward his always-reliable running back at just the right time with the Eagles clinging to a two-point lead after a scoreless third quarter. Westbrook received a slew of well-timed blocks as he slalomed downfield for the clinching touchdown.

"Anytime that you get an opportunity to give the ball to a guy like Westbrook, give him an opportunity in space or against any other defenders, you feel confident about that matchup," McNabb said. "Time and time again, you give him an opportunity he makes plays for you."

Stability at quarterback almost certainly would have given the Vikings another win or two, and perhaps a first-round bye. And despite a drastically better December, Jackson showed he's still quite raw.

His one big mistake really hurt, an underthrown out route to Sidney Rice that Samuel read perfectly and picked off for a 44-yard return and a 16-7 lead.

"I think we rattled him kind of toward the end," defensive end Trent Cole said. "He had to get rid of the ball quick and move around. He was probably getting tight from a lot of pressure."

McNabb wasn't perfect. He threw an interception, lost a fumble in the third quarter and took an 8-yard sack to push the Eagles out of David Akers' field-goal range. But the Vikings didn't capitalize on the turnovers and left plenty of receivers open in the middle of the field—particularly Jason Avant and tight end Brent Celek—for McNabb to target.

He guided the Eagles out of dangerous territory twice in the second half, starting drives at their own 5 and their own 4 and chewing up precious time even though they ultimately punted.

"Whoever said that guy can't move still is a liar," Minnesota's Jared Allen said. "He was running around out there quite nice."

Though he was benched briefly in November, before the Eagles won four of their last five to sneak into the playoffs, McNabb set a franchise record for yards passing this year and helped Philly make the postseason for the seventh time in nine years. There were some bad games, but he's still in the league's upper crust of quarterbacks.

"Donovan did a great job today leading this team. Basically putting the team on his back," Westbrook said.

He added: "That's what you expect from a superstar quarterback like Donovan."

Jackson snapped back after his big mistake, throwing a pair of first-down passes on the next possession to put Peterson in position for a 3-yard, slicing run to pull Minnesota within 16-14.

But the Vikings couldn't get any rhythm in the second half. Peterson didn't have any more holes, and the Eagles applied plenty of pressure to keep Jackson from bouncing back.

DeSean Jackson, the slithery rookie Childress reverently referred to this week as a "human pogo stick," led the Eagles to six of their 16 first-half points. He returned a punt 62 yards—a big weakness for the Vikings—to set up the first field goal by Akers, and caught a 34-yard pass up the sideline preceding another three-point kick.

The only short field the Vikings had came after Allen, who had two of their three sacks, knocked the ball out of McNabb's hand and gave them the ball at their own 46. But they promptly went three and out, and soon after came Westbrook's big catch and run.

The Eagles brought the blitz, and Jackson just had no answer.

"You don't want to be down two scores in the fourth quarter to those guys," Vikings center Matt Birk said. "It's like blood in the water for them."

5 takeaways help Ravens mow down Dolphins

MIAMI (AP)—The Baltimore Ravens had Chad Pennington spinning, ducking, on his heels and on his back. When he did manage to get a pass away, they were often there to snatch it. The Ravens came up with four interceptions, including one returned 64 yards for a touchdown by Ed Reed, and won 27-9 Sunday to spoil the Miami Dolphins' first playoff game in seven seasons.

Baltimore stuffed Miami's ground attack and negated the Wildcat, but most of all the Ravens harried Pennington into uncharacteristic mistakes. After throwing only seven interceptions during the regular season, he had four during a 22-minute flurry midway through the game.

"We heard all week that they don't turn the ball over," linebacker Ray Lewis said. "But we force turnovers."

With a rookie coach in John Harbaugh and a rookie quarterback in Joe Flacco, wild-card entrant Baltimore (12-5) won for the 10th time in 12 games and will play Saturday at AFC South champion Tennessee.

"We're going to Tennessee," Reed said. "Be there."

The playoff victory was the first for the Ravens since they beat Miami in a first-round game in January 2002. The result put the brakes on this season's remarkable resurgence by the Dolphins (11-6), who won the AFC East after going 1-15 in 2007.

"It has been a special year; that's why it hurts so much," Pennington said. "You want to keep it going and see how far you can take it."

A soft schedule contributed to Miami's turnaround, and there was nothing soft about the Ravens. They forced repeated mistakes by a team that tied an NFL record with only 13 turnovers during the regular season.

Reed had two interceptions, and Jim Leonhard and Fabian Washington made one apiece. Terrell Suggs recovered a fumble by Patrick Cobbs early in the second half at the Miami 19, and four plays later Le'Ron McClain scored on an 8-yard run for a 20-3 lead.

Pennington, playing his first game since being chosen the NFL Comeback Player of the Year, was sacked three times and faced constant pressure.

"It always starts up front," Ravens defensive tackle Trevor Pryce said. "We had some favorable matchups, and we took advantage of them. It's quite simple."

Baltimore's secondary also had Miami overmatched. Pennington, who finished 25-for-38 for 252 yards, said the Ravens made good plays on three of the interceptions, and he regretted throwing only one.

"I just couldn't get them to go my way," Pennington said.

Baltimore allowed just 52 yards rushing, and the Dolphins were limited to 7 yards on two plays from the Wildcat, the innovative formation that helped jump-start their revival.

Field position hurt the Dolphins, who started consecutive possessions at their 20, 6, 20, 20, 20 and 2. But the biggest problem was Baltimore's ball-hawking defense, which led the NFL during the regular season with 26 interceptions, including a league-high nine by Reed.

On the game's pivotal play in the second period, he made an over-the-shoulder catch of Pennington's deep throw after intended receiver Ted Ginn Jr., fell.

"Like playing center field," Reed said.

He headed toward the left sideline, eluded a tackler, reversed his field and sprinted for the right corner of the end zone, scoring after Suggs leveled Pennington at the 5-yard line. That put Baltimore ahead to stay, 10-3.

"It felt like the 200 in track," Reed said. "I don't think I caught my breath until the third quarter."

Flacco was only 9-for-23 for 135 yards, but he committed no turnovers and let the Ravens' defenders control the game.

"They've been doing it all year," the rookie said. "You're sitting on the sidelines, and that's what you expect. You get used to it, and you're asking for it every play. Today, they did it on every play."

Trailing 20-3, the Dolphins tried to rally with a 58-yard drive to the 13 before Reed again intercepted Pennington late in the third quarter.

"No one is surprised at the way Ed Reed plays," Harbaugh said. "He may be the best player in the game."

The Ravens' defensive performance was reminiscent of their 27-13 victory at Miami in October. The Dolphins won nine of 10 after that defeat to earn an improbable playoff berth.

"It hasn't been a good day, but it has been a great year," said Miami owner Wayne Huizenga, who is soon expected to complete his sale of the franchise.

His surprising team finally ran out of surprises. After Ronnie Brown made a one-handed catch for a 2-yard score to make it 20-9, Willis McGahee ran 48 yards to set up the Ravens' final touchdown with 3:53 left.

Baltimore offensive coordinator Cam Cameron's unit didn't have to do much else. But with the result, Cameron won more games at Dolphin Stadium this season than in 2007 as Miami's head coach.

Parker scores 26 points as Raptors beat Magic

TORONTO (AP)—Anthony Parker scored a season-high 26 points, Chris Bosh added 23 points and 10 rebounds and the Toronto Raptors overcame a 39-point performance by Orlando's Dwight Howard to beat the Magic 108-102 on Sunday.

Parker was 13-of-16 from the field and came within one point of his career high. The Raptors also got 18 points from Andrea Bargnani, 12 from Roko Ukic and 11 from Will Solomon.

Howard matched his career high in both points and field goals, but it wasn't enough for Orlando, which had won 17 of 20 coming in.

Up by one to start the fourth quarter, the Magic were unable to put scrappy Toronto away. After seven lead changes, Bosh broke a 101-all tie with a pair of free throws with 2:27 left, putting the Raptors on top for good.

Rashard Lewis had 20 points and six 3-pointers for the Magic, who shot 15-for-34 from beyond the arc. Jameer Nelson scored 15 for Orlando.

Howard scored nine points before the game was three minutes old, but was forced to the bench after picking up his second foul at 9:25. Toronto took advantage, closing the first quarter on a 20-5 run to lead 34-22.

Howard returned to start the second quarter, but Toronto pushed its lead to 44-28 before Orlando clawed back. Nelson had eight points and Howard added nine more in the quarter as the Magic cut the gap to 56-49 at the half.

A 10-2 run to end the third gave Orlando its first lead since 15-14 midway through the first quarter, with Howard's breakaway dunk with 33 seconds left sending the Magic into the final frame holding a 78-77 edge.

Toronto forward Jermaine O'Neal (right knee) missed his third consecutive game, while guard Jose Calderon (right hamstring) did not dress. Coach Jay Triano said Calderon would likely miss this week's road trip to Milwaukee and Washington.

Knicks 100, Celtics 88

At New York, Wilson Chandler scored a career-high 31 points and New York snapped an eight-game losing streak against sputtering Boston.

Al Harrington added 30 for the Knicks, who hadn't beaten Boston at Madison Square Garden since March 23, 2005, dropping the last six meetings.

Paul Pierce scored 31 points for the Celtics, who lost for the fourth time in six games after a 27-2 start. Ray Allen added 16, but Garnett, who seemed to hurt his right leg late in the third quarter, had only six points on 1-of-6 shooting with nine rebounds.

Lee had 14 points and 14 rebounds as he and Chandler, who scored 15 points in the decisive third quarter, consistently outworked Garnett and Boston's front line.

AP

Toronto Raptors' Chris Bosh , center, drives to the basket despite the defensive efforts of Orlando Magic's Rashard Lewis, left, and Marcin Gortat, right, during first-quarter NBA basketball game action in Toronto on Sunday, Jan. 4, 2009.

Lakers 100, Trail Blazers 86

At Los Angeles, Kobe Bryant scored 26 points and Pau Gasol added 19 as the Los Angeles Lakers beat Portland for their sixth consecutive victory and 15th straight at home.

LaMarcus Aldridge led Portland with 22 points and 11 rebounds, as all five starters scored in double figures. But the Blazers shot only 39 percent overall.

Facing the Trail Blazers for the first time since their season-opening 96-76 win—Portland's lowest point total ever against the Lakers—the defending Western Conference champions pulled away with a 15-3 run that increased their four-point lead to 75-59 with 2:12 left in the third quarter.

Wizards 80, Cavaliers 77

At Washington, LeBron James was called for traveling while driving for the potential tying basket with 2.3 seconds left as his Cleveland Cavaliers lost to the Eastern Conference-worst Washington.

James finished with 30 points, 10 assists and six rebounds. But nobody else on the Cavaliers scored more than 13, and they were held to their lowest point total this season.

Antawn Jamison's 26 points and 13 rebounds included a baseline jumper with 10.5 seconds left that put Washington ahead 79-77. Cleveland's next possession ended with James' turnover, and Caron Butler added a free throw for the final margin.

Pistons 88, Clippers 87

At Los Angeles, Rodney Stuckey scored 24 points and Tayshaun Prince added 20 as Detroit got a critical goaltending call in the final seconds to beat the Los Angeles Clippers for its seventh straight victory in a matchup of injury-depleted teams.

Allen Iverson had 18 points and 10 assists for the Pistons, who have beaten the Clippers 12 straight times.

Eric Gordon scored a career-high 31 points, but missed a potential winner at the buzzer, for the Clippers, who dropped to 8-25 with their seventh straight loss. Marcus Camby had 14 points and 20 rebounds, extending his double-digit rebound streak to 20 games. He is averaging 18.3 over his last eight.

Grizzlies 102, Mavericks 82

At Memphis, Tennessee, O.J. Mayo scored 18 of his 21 points in the second half, and Memphis snapped a 13-game losing streak to Dallas.

Marc Gasol had 19 points for Memphis, which ended a four-game skid overall. Rudy Gay and Hakim Warrick added 18 apiece.

Dirk Nowitzki led the Mavericks with 28 points, hitting 11 of 21 shots. Jason Terry scored 18 and Josh Howard finished with 12 points, but was 5-of-12 from the field.

NBA BRIEFS

Blazers' Roy out seven-10 days

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—Brandon Roy, the All-Star guard who missed the Portland Trail Blazers' last two games because of a sprained right hamstring, will miss seven to 10 more days. Roy didn't travel Saturday to Los Angeles for the Blazers' game Sunday against the Lakers and likely will miss at least three more games. An MRI Saturday showed no significant changes in his surgically repaired left knee since fluid was drained in mid-December.

MRI confirms Wizards' Butler has sprained ankle

WASHINGTON (AP)—Washington Wizards forward Caron Butler had an MRI on Wednesday that revealed no serious damage to his injured left ankle. The MRI confirmed the initial diagnosis of a sprain and he will continue to be listed as day-to-day. Butler hurt the ankle during the loss to the Cleveland Cavaliers on Christmas. He has since missed three games. Butler leads the Wizards in scoring (21.0 points) and assists (4.5) this season and is also averaging 6.5 rebounds. The Wizards' next game is Friday on the road against the Boston Celtics.

Magic's Pietrus out with broken wrist

CHICAGO (AP)—Orlando Magic guard Mickael Pietrus will be out indefinitely after breaking his right wrist on a dunk against Detroit on Monday. Pietrus was injured in the second quarter when he banged into the Pistons' Jason Maxiell and landed awkwardly on his back and arm. X-rays taken after the game showed no structural damage, but an MRI on Tuesday revealed the fracture. "I don't think we'll know a real good timetable until we get home, but it's certainly going to be a significant amount of time," coach Stan Van Gundy said on Wednesday before Orlando played the Chicago Bulls. One of the Magic's main 3-point threats, Pietrus is averaging 11.7 points. But he's had trouble staying healthy after the Magic signed him away from Golden State in the offseason. Pietrus was appearing in his fifth straight game on Monday after missing 10 with a torn ligament in his right thumb.

Pacers' Dunleavy to return within week

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Mike Dunleavy isn't used to being a spectator, and it looks like he won't be one for much longer.

The Indiana Pacers guard is expected back within a week or so after missing all 33 games so far this season with soreness in his right knee.

"Obviously, it's been a long few months," Dunleavy told The Associated Press. "I'm on the mend, and I should be back soon. I'm looking forward to it."

He sat out just 11 games in his first six NBA seasons.

"I've been fortunate my entire career never to have had any injuries," said Dunleavy, who averaged a career-best 19.1 points per game last season. "This is new to me. I've just tried to roll with it, just get better each day."

The Pacers start a five-game road trip Monday at Denver. Dunleavy hopes to be in the lineup before the Pacers return to Conseco Fieldhouse to play Detroit on Jan. 14.

"We don't have any concrete dates in mind," he said. "It's a day-by-day thing, see how I feel."

His teammates can't wait to see him back on the court. Fourth-year forward Danny Granger is carrying the scoring load, averaging a career-best 25.1 points per game.

"When you have two 20-point scorers, it makes the offense a lot better," Granger said. "It makes us harder to guard on offense, which in turn might make them (opponents) more tired on offense. It'll help both ends of the court when he comes back."

Dunleavy does more than score—he also averaged 5.2 rebounds and 3.5 assists last season.

"He's just so valuable to us as a ballhandler, facilitator, shooter," Pacers forward Troy Murphy said. "There's really no one thing that you can say we're missing, but we miss his overall game. The way he's able to run the pick-and-roll, the way he's able to get guys shots, there's really no guy in the league at his size that can do that."

Dunleavy expected to be ready to play when the season started.

"Sometimes, you just don't know the way things react," he said. "You think something originally is going to be a week or two. Sometimes, it's a lot longer. These things have a mind of their own. It's not as cut or dried as a tear or a break."

Dunleavy said he would have been able to play Saturday against Sacramento if it were a Game 7 in the playoffs or a similarly important situation.

"I think really all season long, I could have gutted it out and played one game, but not more than that," he said. "This has been the best thing for me in terms of getting right for now and for the future."

Dunleavy wants to pick up from last season, in which he was sixth in the balloting for the league's most improved player award.

"I wanted to take the momentum from last season into this season," he said. "That's the way the cookie crumbles sometimes. You've got to deal with things like that."

While Dunleavy has been out, Granger has emerged as a force.

"He's been great," Dunleavy said. "He's a tough cover for teams each and every night, he's terrific on both ends of the court. He's been a great player for us. I'm just hoping to get back and help him and the other guys get back in the right direction in terms of wins and losses."

Marquis Daniels has also emerged in Dunleavy's absence. The sixth-year player is averaging 15.7 points per game and is having by far the best year of his career.

The most difficult thing for Dunleavy has been watching the losses pile up. The Pacers were 12-21 after Saturday. But Indiana leads the league in games decided by three points or less, and the Pacers have wins over Boston and the Los Angeles Lakers.

"I think everybody knows we're much better than our record indicates," he said. "The games are 48 minutes long, they're not 45. That's part of the deal. We take the confidence from it that we can play with any team in the league. We've just got to do a better job of finishing games."

Softball league resumes; make-up games tonight

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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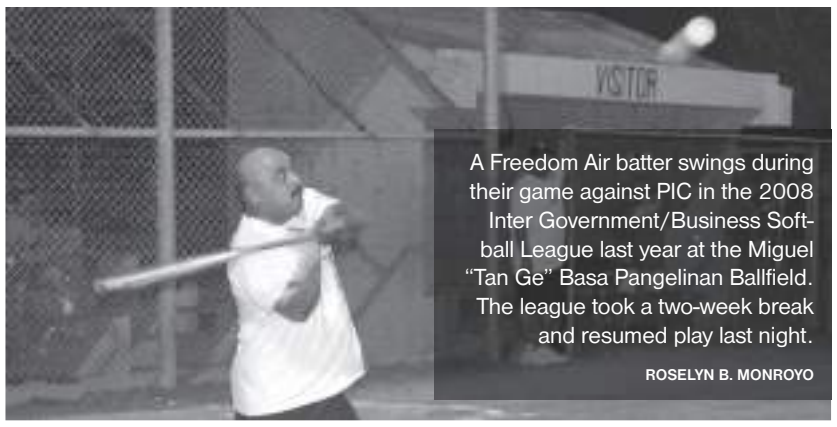
REPORTER

The 2008 Inter Government/Business Softball League returned to action last night at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield after a two-week holiday break.

The league resumed with men's division defending champion Department of Community and Cultural Affairs being the only undefeated squad in the 20-team field.

DCCA swept its first eight games before the league took a long break to give way to the holiday celebration.

The defending champion was hoping to keep its unbeaten record against Law & Order in the first game last night. In the other men's game, Commonwealth Ports Authority was playing Commonwealth Health Center in the last game of the night. Results of neither match was available at press time.



A Freedom Air batter swings during their game against PIC in the 2008 Inter Government/Business Softball League last year at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield. The league took a two-week break and resumed play last night.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

CPA has a 6-1 record and is in a three-way tie for second place with Freedom Air and the Beach Boys. CHC is at the lower half of the team standings with a 2-5 record, while Law & Order holds a 3-5 slate.

In the lone women's game, defending champion DCCA was to face Commonwealth Utilities Corp. DCCA has a 3-2 record and is ranked second in the league behind the unbeaten Northern Marianas College (7-0). CUC is at the bottom of the team standings with only one win in five games.

Meanwhile, games that were cancelled on Dec. 19 will be played tonight at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

In the first game at 6:30pm, PSS will duel DLNR, while CUC will collide with CHC in the women's match at 7:30pm. The third game at 8:30pm will have P&S meeting the Mayor's Office.

Liz Palacios, one of the organizers of the league, said games every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday will all be played at the "Tan Ge" Ballfield. Make-up games will be played every Tuesday at the Capital Hill Ballfield, which will also be the venue for Thursday matches.

The men's division has a round-robin format in the regular season, while the women's category is a three-round robin league.

The league is expected to conclude its regular season last week of March and will start the playoffs in April.

ROLLERS

From Page 28

In five games, Zack Tudela collected 140 points to emerge as the top scorer in the boys' 18-and-under division. Completing Rollers A's 1-2-3 finish in scoring were Manny Matagolai and Don Teregeyo, who earned 137 and 96 points, respectively.

The trio was consistent offensively for Rollers A in the pool play leading the team to a perfect 3-0 record. In the semis, they helped Rollers A pull off a 120-110 overtime win against the Sonics to advance to the finals against the G-Stars.

Teregeyo fired 22 points, while Matagolai chipped in 18 in Rollers A's losing effort against the G-Stars in the title match (86-77).

Joseph Ada of the Sixers, who made it into the playoffs before losing to the Sonics, was ranked fourth in scoring with 86 points.

The G-Stars' Marvin Rabauliman finished fifth with 83 points, but could have ranked higher had he played in the finals. Rabauliman was suspended for the title match due to an unsportsmanlike conduct.

Completing the Top 10 were G-Stars' Jericho Cruz (78 points), Rollers B's Brandon Aurelio (77), Rollers A's Luizi Reyes (76), Sonics' Tristan Ecalnea (76), Sixers' Novo Pepito (73), and Sonics' Michael Eclevia (72).

The top scorers in two other divisions (boys' 14-and-under and girls' 18-and-under) came from the champion teams.

Roxanne Duenas of girls' 18-and-under titlists Lady Knights tallied 93 points in five games to beat MHS II teammates Lia Rangamar (86) and Lena Guzman (79).

Rounding out to Top 5 were the Lady Ayuyus' Yvonne Bennett (70) and the Lady Knights' Noelle Calvo and MHS I's Lalaine Pagarao, who scored 68 points apiece.

Three more MHS players and two from Kagman made it into the Top 10 with the Lady Dolphins' Jeneque Benavente placing sixth with 63 points, followed by teammate Riza Tacliad (58), Lady Ayuyus' Nikita Hofschneider (57), MHS's Ira Palero (53), and the Lady Ayuyus' Mercedes Mesa (45).

John Darag of boys' 14-and-under champion Lil'Sonics made it to the century mark, firing a total of 100 points in five games to lead nine others.

Sixers I players dominated the Top 5 with John Cenir finishing second with his 92 points, followed by Tanner Maratita (85), Jack Aranda (68), and Nevin Salem and Ralph Francisco, who nailed 62 points each.

Completing the Top 10 were Rollers A's Lester Vertudez (59) and Lawrence Deleon Guerrero (55), Lil' Sonics' Angelo Salas (54), Sixers 1's Jed Villanueva (50), and Lil' Sonics' Max Camacho (48).

The Holiday Hoops was organized by the Basketball Association of Northern Mariana Islands in cooperation with the Division of Sports and Recreation, Division of Youth Services, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, and the Saipan Mayor's Office.

FIBA international referee Gabriel White was the tournament director.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	29	6	.829	_
New Jersey	16	18	.471	12 1/2
Toronto	14	20	.412	14 1/2
New York	13	19	.406	14 1/2
Philadelphia	13	20	.394	15

Southeast Division

Orlando	26	8	.765	_
Atlanta	22	11	.667	3 1/2
Miami	18	14	.563	7
Charlotte	12	22	.353	14
Washington	7	25	.219	18

Central Division

Cleveland	27	6	.818	_
Detroit	21	11	.656	5 1/2
Milwaukee	16	19	.457	12
Chicago	14	20	.412	13 1/2
Indiana	12	21	.364	15

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	22	11	.667	_
New Orleans	20	10	.667	1/2
Dallas	20	13	.606	2
Houston	21	14	.600	2
Memphis	11	23	.324	11 1/2

Northwest Division

Denver	23	12	.657	_
Portland	20	14	.588	2 1/2
Utah	19	15	.559	3 1/2
Minnesota	8	25	.242	14
Oklahoma City	4	30	.118	18 1/2

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	27	5	.844	_
Phoenix	19	12	.613	7 1/2
Golden State	10	25	.286	18 1/2
L.A. Clippers	8	25	.242	19 1/2
Sacramento	8	26	.235	20

Yesterday's Games

Toronto 108, Orlando 102
Washington 80, Cleveland 77
Detroit 88, L.A. Clippers 87
Memphis 102, Dallas 82
New York 100, Boston 88
L.A. Lakers 100, Portland 86

By The Associated Press

NETTERS

From Page 28

junior and senior team. These teams meet twice a week and the juniors work out with the seniors for the first 1 1/2 hours of the session," he said.

The CNMI coach added Guam National Tennis Federation has a new president in William Camacho, whom according to Race is "pulling the tennis community together in many ways and they have an active board which supports him."

"Put that together with a much larger and affluent population, along with more facilities, and that constitutes a great challenge for us," Race said.

"I believe we will have to make changes, too, push our kids harder and garner greater parental support if we are going to stay ahead of them," the CNMI mentor added.

Race said if the CNMI tennis community will not make a move and allow Guam to catch up, the latter will not enjoy the benefits it has been gaining in the past several years.

This include getting many slots on the North Pacific Team, which is competing annual in POJC and in other tournaments in Fiji, and spots on the ITF Pacific Touring Team, which participates in junior events in New Zealand and Australia.

Thea Minor, Christian Miller, and Rafael Jones went to New Zealand last year and competed in three tournaments. Last year's trip to New Zealand was Minor's second stint there.

Ji Hoon Heo is now in Australia to participate in two tournaments and he will also go to New Zealand for three more tournaments, which offer Junior ITF ranking points.

"If we fall behind, it will be the Guam juniors who are going to Fiji for the POJC and enjoying the benefits, such as going to New Zealand and Australia. This trips are moving our players forward toward their goals," Race said.

SONICS

From Page 28

"What a great way to start the season with a championship. I am proud of what this team (Lil'Sonics) had accomplished in the tournament because this is a very young team. This is their first time to play together in a tournament. Some even had their first taste of Christmas basketball tournament," Tudela said.

"Hopefully, we can sustain this momentum in the coming tournaments despite having relatively young and inexperienced players in the 14-and-under age group," he added.

The Sonics coach said members of the Lil' Sonics are part of the club's pool of players, which so far has totaled to 48. The newly-crowned champions are composed of Angelo Salas, Max Camacho, Jon Darag, Scott Escalada, Adrian Chan, Stacy Macaranas, Mikhail Basilio, Joel Chan, Michael Yap, Jamin Dela Cruz, Jerick Habijan, and Angelo Limes.

"Our 14-and-under players are basically new ones—from junior high school and some are still in grade schools. These are raw talents waiting to be developed," he added.

Tudela said since he has a large pool of new players, 2009 will be a rebuilding year for the Sonics' 14-and-under team, but he will not be surprise if these young cagers win a tournament too because of the hard work they are showing during training sessions and the support the club is getting from parents, companies, and other individuals.

"If they continue to show the same intensity and focus in training sessions and in actual tournaments, the rebuilding year can also be a winning year for the club," said Tudela, who admitted they had an up-and-down year in 2008, especially for the 18-and-under pool.

But the Sonics coach said his players in the 18-and-under pool are stronger and more experienced this year.

"They were the top players in our 14-and-under pool in the past two seasons and played in several tournaments, like the Rotary and the MISO high school cagings. So they are pretty tough and ready for big tournaments and will be joining those holdovers," Tudela said.

Those elevated from the 14-and-under pool to 18-and-under are Tristan Ecalnea, Adrian Palacios, Noel Soria, Leo Galarse, Shane Metran, and John Paul Villanueva, among others.

"These are guys in the 15 to 16 age group bracket and still have many years to play in the 18-and-under leagues, thus still have more time to improve to get to a very competitive level and challenge teams in the open league," the Sonics coach said.

Players promoted to the senior team replaced former Sonics stalwarts, who left the island for a better future after basketball.

Manuel Ajoste and Jon Lim, who were both scorers of the club, joined the Air Force last year, while Jun Del Rosario is with the Marines. Lerio Pagarao, another prolific scorer, left for the Philippines to study nursing.

"I always tell my players that there's life—a better life that is—after basketball. When their playing years here is over, they could go somewhere, study or pursue other endeavors, which would give them and their family a better future, a better life than what their parents had before," Tudela said.

Helping Tudela handle a pool of 48 players is his reliable assistant and former Sonic player Omar Ajoste.

"I really thanked Omar for taking over the team when I am not available, especially last season, as I am tied up with work in the school (Southern) and hospital (CHC). Without him, it will be very difficult to take care of a big club," Tudela said.

$145K

From Page 28

baseball team from Korea which has been conducting its winter/spring training on Saipan for the past several years.

The upgrading will also benefit local teams, such as those playing in the Saipan Major League and the Senior, Big, and Junior divisions of the Saipan Little League Baseball.

Repair works in the "Tan Ko" ballfield include backfill and leveling of infield and outfield areas, supply and installation of 50-foot high safety net, replacement of 10-foot high line fence and posts and non-working lights, installation of rail and post protective pads, electrical works, and relocation of the scoreboard.

The scoreboard is to be moved from the interior side of the chain-linked fence to the exterior.

Renovations and repairs in the "Tan Ko" Ballfield are estimated to cost $103,465.

The "Tan Ge" Ballfield will also undergo a facelift, as its infield and will be expanded. The expansion is expected to cost $2,400.

The smaller field is used for games in the Major League of the SLLB and the slowpitch and fastpitch softball leagues and tournaments.

Bullpens in the two fields will also be relocated, while canopies will be constructed over existing batting tunnels. New batting tunnels will also be built in the two ballfields. Constructions of these bullpens, canopies, and batting tunnels are estimated to cost $27,000.

MVA assured the Historic Preservation Office, which noted that the project would impact portions of the archaeological deposits underlying the sports complex, that renovations and repairs will be done in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historical Preservation Act of 1966.

2008 Christmas Basketball Jam

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Lady Knights with coach Connie Camacho, standing right, pose for a group photo after beating the Lady Ayuyus in the title game in the girls' 18-and-under division of the 2008 Christmas Basketball Jam at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The G-Stars flash the No. 1 sign after winning the boys' 18-and-under crown over Rollers A.

Boys' 14-and-under finalists Sixers I and the Lil'Sonics.

Rollers A and G-Stars players battle for the rebound during their title game in the boys' 18-and-under division.

The Lil' Sonics' Angelo Salas, front, and the Sixers I's Jed Villanueva battle for the loose ball.

Yvonne Bennett, right, of the Lady Ayuyus pulls up for a shot.

The G-Stars' Nate Mateo goes for a layup against Rollers A's Luizi Reyes.

The Sixers I's Jed Villanueva drives to the baseline and is fouled by The Lil' Sonics' Scott Escalada, partly hidden.

The Sonics' Mike Eclevia drives to the basket during their semis match against Rollers A.

Rollers A's Luizi Reyes pulls up for a jumper against the G-Stars' Jericho Cruz, right, and Nino Feria.

A Lady Knights player fakes off the defense of a Lady Ayuyus player.

Parker scores 26 points as Raptors beat Magic

Anthony Parker scored a season-high 26 points, Chris Bosh added 23 points and 10 rebounds and the Toronto Raptors overcame a 39-point performance by Orlando's Dwight Howard to beat the Magic 108-102 on Sunday.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Eagles fly past Vikings with 26-14 victory

Above the Metrodome's deafening noise, Donovan McNabb stayed poised.

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CNMI national tennis coach Jeff Race is seen here competing in a local tournament last year. Race was in Guam last month and saw the CNMI's neighbor making significant improvement in its junior tennis program.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

'Netters to face great challenge from Guam'

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI junior tennis program will be facing a big challenge from Guam this year, prompting coach Jeff Race to call on more parental support and extra effort from the Commonwealth's young guns.

Race, after accompanying 12 CNMI players to the 2008 Guam 2008 Guam Junior Championships last week, said Guam is doing a lot of things to catch up with the CNMI as far as the junior tennis program is concerned.

In the past several years, the CNMI had dominated Guam in the North Pacific Qualifying Tournament sending more junior players to the Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Fiji than its neighbor.

Even in Guam's home turf, CNMI bets still find ways to overpower their foes.

But after seeing how Guam junior players performed in last month's championship and the support they are getting from the community and the association's officials, Race said Guam is showing significant improvements.

"The trip was instructive for me to see that Guam is making a lot of changes designed to improve their junior tennis program. The Tennis Academy of Guam is bringing in a second coach from Texas to complement Lency Tenai," Race said.

"Also they have formed a national

See NETTERS on Page 26

$145K approved for Oleai ballfields

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The U.S. Office of the Insular Affairs has approved the grant request for the renovation and repair of the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield and the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

In a Dec. 22, 2008 letter to Ed Arriola, chairman of the Marianas Visitors Authority's Destination Enhancement Ad Hoc Committee, MVA managing director Perry John P. Tenorio said Nikolao Pula, Director of the US Office of Insular Affairs, had advised Gov. Benigno R. Fitial that the CNMI's grant request for the renovation of the two ballfields at the Olea Sports Complex has been approved.

The project has an estimated cost of $145,000 with the "Tan Ko" ballfield needing more repairs to meet the standard of the LG Twins, a professional

See $145K on Page 26

Sonics hoping for fruitful 2009

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REPORTER

Sonics coach Jesse Tudela is hoping that their recent championship in the boys' 14-and-under division of the 2008 Annual Christmas Basketball Jam is just the start of the many good things awaiting the club this year.

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Tudela

Rollers A players lead Holiday Hoops scoring

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Rollers A failed to claim the boys' 18-and-under division title in the 2008 Annual Christmas Basketball Jam Festival last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, but as a consolation, three of its players ruled the scoring department in the annual tournament.

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Rollers A's Don Teregeyo goes for a layup against two G-Stars defenders during their title game in the boys' 18-and-under division of the Holiday Hoops last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield will undergo renovations after the U.S. Office of the Insular Affairs approved a grant request for the repairs of the two ballfields in the Oleai Sports Complex.